

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, February 4, 2000 • 50 cents (tax included)

## Sports U.S. soccer team member delights Mills College crowd [C1]

Inside El Cerrito author Gail Tsukiyama takes audience on novel adventure [A3]

### Paintbrush may prove a catalyst

Homemade blue curb moves EC to study new policies

By J.R. Deaton

in front of her house.

"I did get what I thought was permission to do it," Giller said.

The Police Department and staff from the city's Maintenance and Engineering Department subsequently informed Giller that her homemade blue curb was not acceptable. However, Giller was later told that she could retain her blue curb while the city considered the issue and developed a policy.

Giller is disabled and uses crutches, a wheelchair or a scooter to help her get around. She has been disabled for 23 years.

Albany-El Cerrito Access, a nonprofit advocacy organization, provided city staff with recommendations for a residential disabled parking program.

In April 1998, Giller, a 17-year resident of the city, painted the curb outside her home blue and put up a blue and white disabled person sign. The city's former maintenance and engineering services manager had given Giller the OK to put up a sign asking people not to park

Their plan, originally developed in 1996, would set specific qualifications and guidelines. The person requesting a blue curb in front of a residence would be required to show proof of residence and would have to possess a valid Disabled Person/Disabled Veteran placard identification or license plate.

Additionally, if off-street parking exists, the person requesting the disabled parking space would have to explain why they are unable to use off-street parking.

"Using off-street parking for another use is not a valid reason," the Albany-El Cerrito Access draft policy states.

A disabled person would not be allowed to request an on-street parking

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RAY PALMIERI painted a blue curb in front of Dorothy Giller's Lexington Avenue home.

JOANNA JHANOA



STUDENTS (from left) Isaac Sparling, Adam Marvin, Galen Pimenteo, William Weindel and Marissa Matthews talk with Prospect-Sierra teacher Johanna Brandriff about their findings during frog habitat restoration.

### Students get jump on restoring frog habitat

By J.R. Deaton

in a section of the greenway south of Stockton Avenue.

The group has cleared wood chips from the habitat, picked up trash, dug water channels and generally cleaned up the frog's habitat. They test the pond water and plan other scientific work such as testing for dissolved oxygen.

With the help of conservationist and naturalist Jim McKissick, a local flora

and fauna expert, the students plan to plant native water plants—mostly grasses and rushes—in the habitat's ponds. Brandriff says they hope the plants will grow and eventually form small marshy areas on both sides of the greenway.

The kids are clearly excited about

See HABITAT, Page A10

### Cougar volleyball team's success honored by council

By James Carter

ALBANY — The Albany High School girls volleyball team — one of the best in the state — came within a game of making it into the finals this year, its greatest achievement ever.

The Cougars made it to the NorCal Division V title match, a stunning accomplishment. Their 40-6 season was the best ever for Albany.

"We feel like the community was really behind us this year," said team captain Laura Jensen. "The recognition has

just been amazing. The teachers at school threw a party for us a lunch one day just to say thanks. It's been an amazing feeling for us."

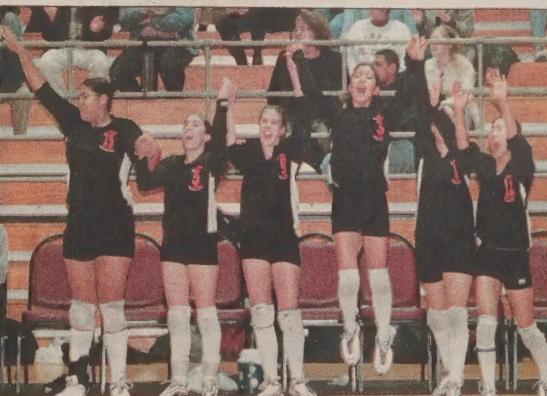
Head coach Konrad Ott agreed.

"The recognition feels great," he said. "We've been very good for seven years now, and the district has gone out of its way to show their support."

"Every year, every team is very different and great in their own way," Ott added. "But there was something unique about these 12 girls. They clicked. They worked very well together, and it was just fun to be a part of their success."

The Cougars have a rich volleyball tradition, and many superb athletes have succeeded at the college level. Former team captain Lindsey Kagawa played on the Stanford University team that made it to the NCAA finals this year, and were a breath away from taking home the national championship.

Homerton fans anticipate similar suc-



TEAM MEMBERS celebrate win that sent the Cougars to the NorCal finals.

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See LINE, Page A8

## WORTH CHECKING OUT

### West County transportation

A public workshop on the West County Action Plan for transportation will be held Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. at Maple Hall, 13831 San Pablo Ave (at Church Lane) in San Pablo. The meeting is an opportunity to voice support for increased transit in West Contra Costa County. The session is accessible by AC Transit routes 72, 72L, 76, 78, 376.

### Singers workshop

"Imagination, Impulse & Intention: A Workshop for Singers," with mezzo soprano Karen Clark takes place Saturday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., presented by Hausmusik, the workshop is held in St. Alban's Parish Hall, 1501 Washington St. in Albany. Vocalist and Feldenkrais practitioner Karen Clark structures the class around awareness through movement lessons designed by Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais. Singers of all levels and all styles are invited to attend. The cost is

\$60. To register or receive more information, call 594-4048.

### Creek groups symposium

On Monday, Feb. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m., city of Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., join Friends of Five Creeks and special guests from Aquatic Outreach Institute, Friends of Baxter Creek, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, Estuary Action Challenge, and CYCLE—Community Youth Council for Leadership and Education for brainstorming, information swapping, and seeking collaborative solutions to common problems faced by volunteer-based creek groups. Refreshments and engaging conversation provided.

### 'Taste of the Yucatan'

The public is invited to view the current exhibit at the Gallery Showcase located at the Albany Community Center Library complex 1249 Marin Ave. in the Albany Recreation and Community Services Department Office. The current show is "A

Taste of the Yucatan," photographs from Mexico taken by Albany photographer, Estie Briggs. The Showcase Gallery is open to the public for viewing Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

### AEF gala dinner

Come join Albany Education Foundation supported in celebrating a "Gala Gathering for Great Albany Schools" at Christopher's Cafe on Solano at 1501 Solano Ave. Albany. The event takes place Sunday Feb. 6, seating at 5:30-7:30 p.m., tickets are \$50 each (a portion is tax deductible). There will be a silent auction with lots of great items, a door prize, music, great food, and best of all the opportunity to support Albany schools. The foundation has given nearly \$16,000 in grants for the 1999-2000 year. Tickets can be reserved by calling 510-524-7797. Donations accepted at 1320 Solano Ave., #102 Albany, CA 94706.

## Focus on Albany's Subway Sandwich Shop

### Albany Chamber

By Roxanne Wiley

Ranbir Hundal has owned the Subway Sandwich Shop since 1991 and is the newest member of the chamber. He is in partnership with his brother but most of the time it is a silent arrangement and Ranbir is the man in charge.

The Subway stores have made some amazing menu changes in the last five years. There is a huge market for low fat meals and once the company put such items on the menu, they scored a big hit. Take for instance my favorite the Veggie sub used to be one of the few low fat items, it is now being outshined by the Garden Sub and the Roasted Chicken Sub.

Ranbir, as a standard practice, uses low fat mayonnaise and he offers sourdough bread as an option as well as his daily fresh baked white and whole wheat breads. Also, there is a nutritional guide available at the shop which tells the consumer how much fat, saturated fat, sodium, calories, dietary fiber and protein are in all items on the menu. And they call this fast food? I think not!

You can still get the standard submarine fare: Cold Cut Trio, Classic Italian BMT, Subway Club or hot Steak & Cheese, Subway Melt and the classic Meatball. He is also offering wraps; you know tortilla wrapped goodies like Chicken Parmesan, Steak and Cheese and Turkey Breast and Bacon. Are you hungry yet? Oh yes, how about ordering the three-foot or longer submarine sandwich for a party? That would be a good way to feed teenagers with bottomless pits.



RANBIR HUNDAL stands in his newly renovated Subway Sandwich Shop.

As I said, Ranbir runs the whole shop, his wife has a full-time job and his two sons are both in college.

They help when their schedules allow, but basically, he is pretty much on his own with one or two counter people.

Drop by and indulge yourself in this very special place at 900 San Pablo Ave. There is literally something for everyone.

### Citizen, Youth of the Year nominations

Every year at this time, the Chamber of Commerce accepts nominations from the community, for qualified people that have volunteered their energies to various service groups. From these nominations, the Chamber selects the person who will carry that title for the year.

We have expanded the concept to include a new category, that of Outstanding Youth of the Year. The students will be judged primarily on

their volunteer services but must maintain a decent grade average.

We have sent out nomination forms to various groups and to the schools but if you have a candidate in mind please call the Chamber and a nomination form will be sent to you.

### Albany Day at the Races

It's that time again when Golden Gate Fields announces the date for our own special day at the races. The official date to mark on your calendar is April 22, and we will be selling tickets for that event incorporating a bevy of wonderful prizes to be won at the drawing on that day. More to come later.

### Lions Club crab feed

The good news is that the event was great, and the bad news is that we have to wait another year for another gorging.

## Suspect grabs unattended cell phone

EL CERRITO — A woman shopping at Walgreens Jan. 14 paid the clerk and walked out, leaving her cellphone behind on the counter. A 26-year-old man sporting a Jack in the Box uniform and a shaved head, reached for the phone, though an onlooker repeatedly urged him not to do so. He stormed out of the store with the ill-gotten prize in hand. However, police have his name, address and phone number.

■ A woman in her mid-20s drove up to Weinerschnitzel Jan. 24, placed an order, then drove through the red-roofed, A-frame building without picking up her dogs. Moments later, the window clerk was confronted by a pistol-pointing teen-age boy, who demanded money. The clerk handed over the loot and the boy raced back to the getaway car, leaped inside and took the mustard off the hotdog, racing away with his accomplice and \$130.

■ A crook commandeered a crock

from the hilly yard of a home planted on the 900 block of King Drive Jan. 27, but unhappy with the soil and flora, dumped the dirt and fled with the empty pot, valued at \$75.

■ A 39-year-old man was pistol-whipped after two men robbed him at gunpoint Jan. 25. The victim was approached by the men as he strolled down the sidewalk of Central Avenue at 9 p.m. The gunman, described as clean-shaven, Asian, in his late 30s, 5-foot-10 with short hair, pointed a black semi-automatic handgun between the eyes of the victim who quickly surrendered his wallet and the \$130 it contained. With arrogant contempt, the hoodlum struck the helpless victim in the back of his head, then fled in a white Honda with his partner. The second suspect is described as an clean-shaven, short-haired Asian man, 5-foot-8, wearing a striped multi-colored jacket.

■ Sometime during the late night

## POLICE REPORT

or early morning of Jan. 26, thief climbed into an unlocked car on the 300 block of Carlson Boulevard, grabbed a walkie talkie and hit the road out of there.

■ A burglar removed the door from an open window on the 800 block of Tamalpais Avenue on the evening of Jan. 29, and cleared the master bedroom of the house before exiting through the front door.

■ A thief groping in the dark climbed into an unlocked car on the 800 block of Tamalpais Avenue on the evening of Jan. 29 or 30, and cleared the master bedroom of the house before exiting through the front door.

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## Auto stolen, abandoned, towed

By K. Osborn

The Albany Police Officers want people to know that there is a beautiful bronze and granite California Peace Officers' Memorial located on the State Capitol grounds in Sacramento. The plaque contains the names of more than 1,300 peace officers who have given their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving their fellow Californians, dating back to early statehood.

Gov. Gray Davis, in an expression of support for these officers and their surviving families, has signed into law Senate Bill 1230 authored by Senator John Burton. The new law allows taxpayers to make voluntary contributions on their personal state income tax returns to the California Peace Officers' Memorial Fund. The process is simple. No checks to write and no solicitors. The taxpayer merely executes a check off on the State Franchise Tax Board Form in the amount of at least \$3.

The new law which is effective immediately with tax year 1999, specifies that all contributions must be used to maintain the California Peace Officers' Memorial, and for activities in support of the surviving families of those gallant men and women peace officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The more than 100,000 professional peace officers serving in California urge your support and participation in this project.

ALBANY — On the morning of Jan. 24, a resident on the 900 block of Ventura Street called to report that his blue '86 Toyota had been stolen. He was surprised to learn that it had been towed at about midnight from a pri-

ate parking space on the 900 block of Ordway Street when the resident there had reported it. Evidently, thieves had broken into the car and hot-wired it to start it, then had abandoned it a couple blocks away. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 3 p.m. on Jan. 24, a resident on the 800 block of Cornell Avenue reported that during the day thieves had broken into a locked storage unit and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the night of Jan. 24, a resident on the 900 block of Kains Avenue reported that during the day thieves had broken into her gray '93 Toyota. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 25, a resident on the 1200 block of Marin Avenue requested officers come and remove a man from her front porch. He was intoxicated and pounding on her door. She also had a Restraining Order against the man. Officers ar-

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# Opinion

## VIEWPOINT

### Addendums to the news

The Portola Middle School Music Department's fund-raiser Feb. 6 at Mr. E's Jazz Club in Berkeley is sold out, but you can still get in on the special and unique items donated that will be up for silent bid. If you weren't able to get a ticket but are interested in bidding on one of the following items, call Michele Jawad at 526-2278 to place a silent absentee bid.

Items include:

Tom Hanks' original autograph on a 36-inch by 15-inch "Toy Story 2" matted poster donated by one of Hanks' relatives; Drew Gooden, former El Cerrito High School basketball team member and now star of University of Kansas's team, original autograph on a Jayhawks shirt; ECHS graduate Gail Tsukiyama's original autographed new best-selling novel, "Language of Threads"; Mira Vista Golf and Country Club greens fees and cart for a foursome; two graphic prints, copies, matted, by nationally acclaimed El Cerrito artist Pam Finagro.

**True tales of public safety:** Smoke detectors played a major role in the quick response of fire units to an early morning blaze Jan. 14 at an apartment building, limiting damage and preventing potential injury, fire officials say.

The fire at a Stannage Street apartment building was reported at 4 a.m., officials said, with many callers saying they were awakened by the smell of smoke or by the sounds of smoke alarms.

Albany dispatched both its engines, and as they turned the corner of San Pablo and Brighton Avenue "there was a big plume of smoke," said firefighter Chris Sillers.

On arrival firefighters found a car fire in the building's ground-floor garage, and called El Cerrito's fire department under a mutual-aid agreement, which brought in a unit from Richmond as well.

"If we were not dispatched within a good amount of time, there could have been some serious damage," said Sillers, who, not coincidentally, runs the smoke-alarm program for the Albany Fire Department.

As it was, the blaze took three hours and 45 minutes to fully extinguish, and incurred \$35,000 in damage, including the loss of a late model Honda, and some smoke and sheetrock damage to the building.

"If the smoke detector hadn't alerted people, it could have been another 15 to 20 minutes" before the department was notified, said Sillers, who took the opportunity to remind residents about the city's smoke-detector program.

For residents who take advantage of the program, available only to Albany residents, and make an appointment, firefighters will install a 10-year, lithium-powered detector for \$15.

Installation is free, and the cost of the detector, which is supplied by Pastime Hardware, is substantially below the retail cost. The department has installed 1,500 detectors in Albany residences.

To make an appointment, call 528-5770, ext. 434.

**Taking license:** Over at the Albany Police Department the investigation of incidents at the Friendly Market on San Pablo Avenue—where the manager was arrested on suspicion of selling marijuana and alcohol to minors, among other allegations—the store has surrendered its liquor license.

Given the investigation by the APD and the state Alcoholic Beverage Control department, the license was probably a gone anyway. The store will continue operation selling strictly food.

And in El Cerrito, the case of the resident painting a blue handicapped parking space on the curb in front of her home leads to other observations of people taking the paint brush into their own hands, such as the block of Norwell Street where a giant "Slow" is painted in the street as a plea to traffic.

The noticeable—but decidedly unofficial—lettering is the neighborhood's alternative to the cumbersome process of petitioning the city for speed bumps. One neighborhood that did go to the city seeking traffic help, folks living near the in-

### Around Town

By Chris Treadway

Intersection of Lincoln and Richmond in El Cerrito, say there have been four injury accidents at the crossing in the past year. The city is studying the situation, and there's definitely a poor line of sight for cars on Lincoln trying to cross increasingly traveled Richmond. But because Richmond is a residential thoroughfare, it is not a candidate for speed bumps—or "undulations" as they are bureaucratically known.

**Plaza talk:** Which segues, inevitably, into the E.C. Plaza. As we've talked with the community over recent months and tried to answer endless questions about what will happen there—and when, for the optimistic—we've had to stop and wonder ... can you believe how tall the speed bumps are in the Plaza lot?

Motorists lulled by the mild speed bumps on city streets are in for a rude awakening at the Plaza. Of course there are many city streets that have reverse speed bumps (you know them as potholes) that "calm" traffic for all but the most unaware, a product of deferred maintenance resulting from years of tight city budgets. Unless sales tax dollars ring anew from local cash registers you can expect the reverse speed bumps to become even more punitive.

Which, of course, leads us back to the Plaza, the tax dollars it doesn't bring now, and the tax dollars it could bring in once revitalized.

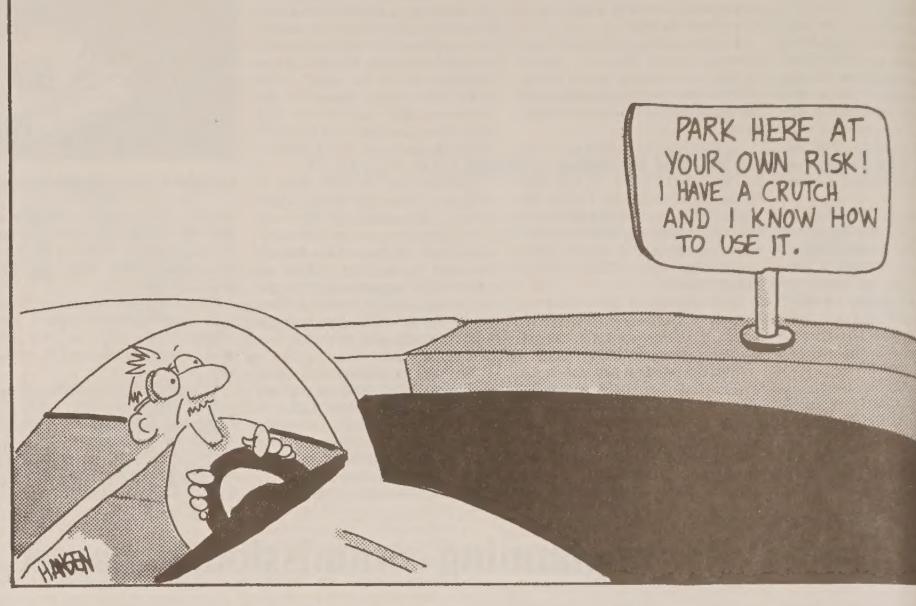
When will work begin? Think soon. Also think "Where will I park?" That was the question raised Saturday by the clerk at Walden Books, who noted the hundreds of cars of BART commuters parked daily in the northern half of the Plaza. The northern half is where work, major demolition and construction, comprise the first phase of the Plaza project. The eviction of vehicles will with work on the project, but it will be permanent. The clerk we talked to said she walks to work, but walking to the Plaza BART isn't an option for everyone.

The station serves not just El Cerrito, but Albany, Kensington, Richmond and some of Berkeley as well. Even if the fabled Measure C garage is built at the Plaza station (by the way, Bayfair is the only other shopping center with a BART stop named for it) the cars will have to go somewhere in the interim. And if you want to see the layout and building drawings for phase I, look in the windows at the former Toy Symphony space at the Plaza. While you're there, check out the Walden Books and the Hallmark store and tell them The Journal sent you.

**Drops in a big bucket:** If you have a kid in one of the after-school care programs in El Cerrito, you've seen the upside-down water cooler bottles being used to collect pennies to help fund renovations of the city Swim Center. If you haven't been to one of the centers, maybe you still have accumulated pennies piling up at home and have wondered what to do with them. This is your answer. Put them back in circulation. It's better than putting them in rolls and trying to get a bank to accept them. If you don't know where to go, just take them to the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane in beautiful El Cerrito. The Swim Center, of course, is the focal point of the city's bond issue on the March ballot. For the people who use the center—young, old and in-between—your contribution will be pennies from heaven.

**And finally:** It took those gracious Rotarians in Albany to prod your editor into writing a column again. Between consolidations, office moves (come up to Hilltop and visit us, see page 2), karate lessons for the youngster and such, it has been hard to find time. But this space had the pleasure of speaking to the Rotary Club of Albany at its meeting last week and someone actually noted that I used to write a regular column for The Journal. I responded that one was coming up this week and here it is. Thanks for asking, hope to write again soon.

**DISABLED EL CERRITO WOMAN PAINTS HER CURB BLUE**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unintentional racism in our schools

### Congratulations on MLK celebration

Imagine you are a Jewish person watching a school play about World War II. The focus of the play is the experience of a group of Nazis sitting around drinking at a lavish party, rejoicing about their exciting victories in conquering new territories and executing the Final Solution. They are thoroughly enjoying their power. Maybe they lament the hardships of war on their men.

The curtain closes. The Jewish people say, "Hey, what about the horrors of the concentration camps? What about all the prejudice and scapegoating? Where's my story? And why is the audience being shown the Nazis as good guys and heroes? Don't you remember the other sides to WW II?" Neither will the audience.

I am both outraged and disappointed that Marin School, and many others throughout this country, I'm sure, would put on a performance about the adventures of the 49ers that portrays the Gold Rush only as an exciting and hopeful time.

I can imagine the horror and rage of a Native American people watching this rendition, this re-telling, this passing down of history knowing the horrific realities—the fact that almost the entire Native American population living in Gold Rush areas was wiped out either by disease introduced by the white men, or by genocidal policies. Policies included the U.S. government's offering of money for the scalping of Indians; Native Americans being systematically chased off their lands and forced to live on reservations and missions; Native American children sold as servants; environmental destruction; 7,600 tons of mercury used to extract gold dumped into California lakes and rivers; the oppressive working conditions of Chinese railroad workers; and white, Chinese and Native American women enslaved as prostitutes by the 49ers and other gold miners.

This is not just a happy story of luck, fortune and expansion, nor is it only a story of the sufferings of white gold miners.

I'm tired of the excuse that we cannot teach the real history because it is not age appropriate. There are many materials and resources out there for teachers that are age-appropriate and don't distort the truth. See "Gold, Greed and Genocide" among other books.

I want my children growing up with an understanding of the complexities of all different points of view.

After all, we live in a multicultural world, and understanding the richness of diverse experiences and points of view throughout our history enables them to grapple with understanding our world—how it came to be and why it is the way it is—and what we want to create differently for our future.

Deborah Godner  
Albany parent

raised over the state house.

Of course, what prompted the raising of that flag was the civil rights movement which challenged Jim Crow South and the institutional racism of this country.

The rebel flag was raised in 1962 as a symbol of defiance to that movement and as a statement of a racist society. The South Carolina legislature's obduracy in continuing to fly the rebel flag symbolizes just how racism runs in South Carolina's political establishment.

Most ironic in all of this is the position of the Republican Party and its presidential candidate. After the Civil War, the Republican Party maintained and preserved its almost total control of the White House and the Congress from the end of the Civil War until Woodrow Wilson's election in 1912 by "waving the red shirt."

This phrase was a metaphor to remind Northerners and all those veterans of the Union who organized in the Grand Army of the Republic that a vote for a Democrat was a vote for the rebel flag and the blood that flowed from Civil War.

The Republicans even "waved the red shirt" when the Union general Winfield Scott Hancock, a hero of Gettysburg, ran as the Democratic party's candidate for president.

Today, 140 years or so later, the Republican frontrunner, George W. Bush II, along with most of the Republican pack of candidates refuse to condemn the South Carolina legislature's act.

So depraved has the party of Lincoln come that it has chosen to forget what the Union soldiers did on those hallowed and sacred fields.

Jean Siri  
El Cerrito

### History raises red flags about debate on Stars and Bars

The issue concerning the flying of the Confederate or rebel flag is ripe with irony. Of course, no one can be involved in politics without appreciating irony and paradox. The South Carolina legislature flies the rebel flag at the state capitol, claiming it is merely a symbol of Southern heritage. Just whose heritage is left unspoken. It is not the heritage of the non-white population of South Carolina, for obvious reasons. Not so obviously, it is also not the emblem of the heritage of the white population either in 1861 or today.

The legislature directed the flag to be raised in 1962 to commemorate the Civil War.

Readers will recall that South Carolina was the first state to claim it could secede from the Union, and the first shots of the war were fired at Fort Sumter, the federal fort that guarded Charleston Harbor.

What is less known is that the majority of Southern whites opposed secession, even in South Carolina. In fact, North Carolina would not have seceded had it not been surrounded by rebel states. That fact was known at the time; after Sherman's army devastated South Carolina—considered the hotbed of rebellion—it left North Carolina relatively unscathed because of its pro-union sympathies.

As for today, polls show that a majority of South Carolinians want the flag down, so just whose heritage resides in that flag?

Equally ironic is the fact that the rebel flag was not flown from the South Carolina state house from Sherman's capture of Columbia, the state capitol, in 1864, to 1962. It wasn't even flown after the return of white supremacy in 1877 and the deal that gave Rutherford B. Hayes, a former Union general, the presidency over Samuel Tilden in exchange for the end of Reconstruction and the withdrawal of federal troops from the South. One would think that some time before 1962 the rebel flag would have been

We want to hear from you

The Journal wants to hear from readers. All letters must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Journal or its staff members. E-mail letters to journal@ccitimes.com or write to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA, 94530.

## Walking with the foremost expert on urban legends



**MARTIN SNAPP**

Snapp Shots

They've actually managed to make a boring movie about Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan! To the new flick, "Turvy," that's getting raves from the critics. (KRON's Jan Wahl gave it her highest rating — four hats.)

As you know, I'm a total G&S fan, and I take it from me: the movie is just dull.

You'd like to see G&S the way it should be done, you'd be far better off watching The Lamplighters' new production of "Ruddigore," this weekend at the Yerba

on a technical level. The

actresses are way better. I don't

like the name of the soprano in

but her voice is too bright, al-

though I can name several Lam-

plighters — including Marti

Karen Testor, Sherbonne Barnes

the sensational young newcomer,

and Karen Ulvskog — who can sing

anyway save your money. Skip the

act and take in The Lamplighters

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copy of the 1957 film, "The Story

of Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan," starring Robert

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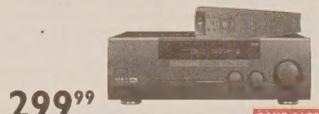
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## Line

FROM PAGE A1

quiet facilities in the area and has been the location of such events for decades, which was never an issue until the 110-year-old operation reopened late last year with a non-union staff. Outside of Mira Vista Country Club, El Cerrito has few banquet facilities to offer.

At Spenger's grand reopening the restaurant was greeted by a line of pickets, but many observers say the number of pickets since then has been few if not none, until last Friday when attendees counted six people picketing outside.

Friedman said that far from be-

ing intentional, it was more a matter of chamber members "not being aware of labor issues in Berkeley. You can't expect an El Cerrito business group to be aware of Berkeley issues."

Friedman stressed that he wants to maintain what he says is "good relations with the business community."

"I've worked on the economic development task force, which I proposed two years ago," he said, adding that with current efforts, "We have a basis for a strong partnership."

Friedman said he plans to send letters to members of the Chamber board clarifying his position and "will be glad to talk to any members that have concerns about that issue."

city so desires," Stern noted.

"There's plenty of parking on my street, but it's not necessarily easy for me to get to it," Giller said earlier this week.

"For other people it would be nothing, but for me to walk a half block, it's a lot," she added. "People who don't have the ability to get into their own homes easily need help — it seems to me it's a civil rights issue," Giller said.

City staff estimates that "under normal conditions," the cost to install an on-street disabled parking space would be \$350 to \$500.

This estimate does not include any ramp construction or pavements modifications, a staff report states.

The Albany-El Cerrito Access draft policy recommends there be no charge to the applicant.

Most cities surveyed pay for installation and removal of the disabled parking spaces.

The city of Newark, however, requires the property owners to pay for installation, maintenance and removal and the cost of an encroachment permit.

Pittsburg assess a first year fee of \$70, which can be waived for financial hardship.

## Curb

FROM PAGE A1

place in front of another address.

"It's my hope that the council and the people of El Cerrito recognize and honor the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the subject of providing reasonable accommodations to all citizens of El Cerrito — including those who are physically challenged," Giller told the City Council before their vote last week.

Giller and other proponents say that few disabled people need residential disabled parking. "Most people have driveways that are wide enough to have easy access to their house," Giller said.

A survey by Albany-El Cerrito Access shows that many East Bay cities, including Berkeley, Richmond, Pittsburg, Oakland, San Leandro, Emeryville and Hayward have residential disabled parking policies.

In a report to the City Council, City Attorney Howard Stern said that, except in unusual circumstances, the Americans with Disabilities Act does not require on-street residential disabled parking. "Of course, the city can adopt a policy to consider such a program if the

## Court

FROM PAGE A1

the case, and difficulty experienced by the Superior Court fielding a jury.

According to Pyle, the night McMahon was arrested, Hudson claimed he mentioned "drug paraphernalia," when referring to the trash. Hudson reportedly said he envisioned used hypodermic needles, causing him to worry about blood-borne viruses like HIV.

However, a review of a tape recorded during the meeting revealed no such words, Pyle said. Hudson apparently is sticking to his statement, and has suggested such comments were uttered but not captured by the recording.

Hudson, who is still a consultant to the district, could not be reached for comment.

The AUSD routinely audio-tapes board meetings, using microphones

situated around the board dais and a stand-up mike for members of the public addressing the body.

During McMahon's remarks and demonstration, former Cornell School Principal Craig Boyan reportedly objected to the presence of trash in the all-purpose room, though it was dumped on a tarp.

Witnesses are expected to offer quite different accounts of what happened in the chaos that followed. Yet all agree Hudson called the police.

When the police arrived, they declined to take McMahon into custody until the former superintendent signed papers placing him under citizen's arrest. At that point, peace officers are required by law to take the accused into custody.

Three days after his arrest and subsequent release, McMahon asked the AUSD for a copy of an official tape recording made by the district during the fiasco. That request was initially refused, Pyle said.

Audio recordings of public meetings are not required by law, Pyle said. "But when you do tape a meeting, it is a matter of public record and is subject to inspection and copying by the public under the California Public Record law."

McMahon attended subsequent school board meetings and continued to request copies of the tape recording. However, the district reportedly claimed it had been erased, though according to Pyle, district officials later made an about face and released a copy to his client — who, at that time, had no legal representation.

Once the matter went to court four years later, lawyers for the district attempted to block introduction of the tape as evidence in the trial, Pyle said.

The district's lawyers filed a motion to excuse the tape as evidence on the grounds that "it was a mere copy," according to Pyle, "and could

not be authenticated." McMahon's counsel said the district claimed it no longer possessed an original of the recording "because it was taped over it."

An employee of the AUSD subpoenaed to testify about the authenticity of the tape, Pyle said, when she was due to appear in court the next morning, AUSD attorney Terry Tadlock reportedly told judge he had instructed her not to come.

After a testy exchange with the judge, the defense later agreed to stipulate the recording was a true and correct copy, Pyle said.

The defense began presentation of its case Feb. 2. It is not known when the matter will go to trial. The McMahon trial marks the fourth legal suit against the AUSD to go to court in three years. The district is currently appealing both levies against them from at least of those cases.

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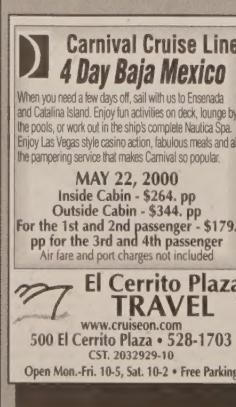
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## ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

By Kay Weinstein  
22, AMS Curriculum Meeting with  
Superintendent Marianne Camp,  
AMS Library

High School  
SCIP Orders: Safeway and An-  
dronico's script must be purchased from e-  
Script (see above). We are selling Natural  
Grocery and Lucky's script. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782, E-mail  
linda.okamoto@hotmail.com or Belinda at  
belinda@ams.org. Site Council meeting, 6 p.m.,  
Feb. 15, Athletic Boosters meeting, 7 p.m.,  
Feb. 15, Room 40  
Feb. 18, Lady Cougars Basketball  
fundraiser for new uniforms for  
Women's Basketball (IV and varsity).  
Tix are \$1, \$5 for six, and \$10 for 13.  
Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782, or e-mail  
linda.okamoto@ams.org

Middle School  
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dronico's script must be purchased from e-  
Script (see above). We are selling Natural  
Grocery and Lucky's script. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018  
or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail  
karen.moss@ams.org or linda.okamoto@ams.org

8th Grade Parents Infor-

mation Night, 7 p.m., AHS Little Theater  
Feb. 17, Site Council meeting, 6 p.m.,  
AMS Library

Feb. 24, "Parenting an Adolescent  
Boy," by family therapist Joe Petzel, 7:15  
p.m., AMS Library

## Cornell Elementary School

SCIP sales: Safeway script must be purchased from e-Script (see above). Andronico's script may be purchased from e-Script, or paper script may be purchased at school. Lucky/Albertsons, Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCIP for sale Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m., and Wednesday after school.

Feb. 16, PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Feb. 17, Site Council meeting

## Ocean View Elementary

SCIP sales: Safeway script must be purchased from e-Script (see above). Andronico's script may be purchased from e-Script, or paper script may be purchased at school.

Feb. 17, Site Council meeting, 7 p.m.,  
Ocean View Library  
Albany Education Foundation, Feb.  
6, Christopher's Café Fund-raiser, 5:30 p.m.  
and 7:30 p.m. seatings. Tickets are \$50 each.  
Call 524-7797 to reserve.

## AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 8, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,

Cornell Multi-Purpose Room  
Feb. 22, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m.,  
Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

## Marin Elementary School

SCIP sales: Safeway script must be purchased from e-Script (see above). Andronico's script may be purchased from e-Script, or paper script may be purchased at school. Lucky/Albertsons, Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCIP for sale Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m., and Wednesday after school.

Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Feb. 10, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Marin  
Multi-Purpose Room

Feb. 17, Site Council meeting

## AUSD Calendar

Feb. 16, kindergarten registration, 9  
a.m.-2:30 p.m., Albany's Veteran's Memorial  
Building, 1325 Portland; bring proof of Albany  
residency. After Feb. 16, new students  
may register at elementary school closest  
to their residence. Information regarding  
immunization requirements and documents  
may be obtained from elementary schools.

Feb. 18, President's Day observed,  
NO SCHOOL

Feb. 21, President's Day observed,  
NO SCHOOL

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or  
email: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

## EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Turn in to KECG 88.1 FM, 9:55-10:05 a.m.,  
Monday-Friday, for ECHS daily announce-

ments. Visit the school Website at [www.wcusd.k12.ca.us/elcerrito/](http://www.wcusd.k12.ca.us/elcerrito/)

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consistent in color and tone.  
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closing and door alignment.

## Cougars

FROM PAGE A1

cess for current Cougar players.

Members of the league championship Cougar team include: Shannon Brazil, Theresa Esparrago, Laura Jensen, Katie Jensen, Amy Jin, Eugene Kim, Lindsey Marshall, Margaret Manson, Abby McCullough, Jennifer Nejad, Stacey Phelps, and Alison West.

## Habitat

FROM PAGE A1

their habitat work and are ready to talk about the project.

"We want to give the frogs back their habitat," said 11-year-old Alex Silver.

"We've been working on it since before the winter break," Silver said. He said that although students have not seen any of the frogs "we've heard them."

Eleven-year-old Zuzu Snyder is also helping restore the Pacific Chorus Frog habitat.

"They went away when they dumped the wood chips. They went away because they couldn't mate, because there was no water and they live in the water," Snyder said. "And so we're doing them a favor by clearing away the wood chips."

As part of the restoration work, students are cleaning out the wood chips to restore the ponds and marshy areas.

City crews dumped the wood chips along this section of the greenway, a move that hurt the frog habitat.

"We were trying to do weed control along the Ohlone Greenway," said Interim Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Bruce McKissock.

City crews are now helping the restoration work by collecting and hauling away wood chips that students rake and shovel out of the habitat. McKissock said that through an agreement with the Park and Recreation Commission, no more wood chips will be dumped.

"We've got our fingers crossed that we're going to be able to actually get this in such a state that the frogs will come back," Brandriff said. She said the students will collect frog eggs, raise them to frogs in the classroom and then return them to the habitat to increase chances of survival.

In the classroom, the students learn about the frogs, native plant restoration, chemistry, biology, the watershed and the environment. They then see firsthand some of the things they're learning about at the habitat to increase chances of survival.

Brandriff said she hopes to make the habitat restoration an ongoing project for her students.

"The frogs, they needed a place to be and this was all covered in wood chips," said 12-year-old Anna Deering. "You couldn't see water anywhere. And so now the frogs can come and lay their eggs."

McKissock said the water should remain in the ponds through the end of spring, long enough for tadpoles to turn into frogs.

"This is one of the few places left in the flatlands where this can actually happen anymore," McKissock said. He praises Brandriff and her students. "We would never have gotten the wood chips out without the kids' help." He said there is a lot to learn at the habitat and much work still to be done.

"We're still trying things here because we're not sure what all will make it through the dry period," McKissock said about the plants he is planting in the habitat.

He is planning for more than grasses and rushes.

"There will also be wild flowers; there will be some trees—willows, possibly some alders, elderberry," McKissock said. "It's going to look like a really nice area when we're done, but it may take a while."

## Snapp

FROM PAGE A5

the more provocative urban legends at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10, at the College Preparatory School in Oakland. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students, which will be donated to the school. For information, call 510-597-0224.

PS. Despite what the woman says in the Mrs. Fields cookie story, the best chocolate chip cookies in the world aren't at Mrs. Fields; they're at the Phoenix Pastificio on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, down the street from Poulet. And I ought to know, because I used to date Mrs. Fields.

No, not the Mrs. Fields. I'm talking about the first Mrs. Fields—the woman who was married to Mr. Fields before he married the current Mrs. Fields. But that's another story.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail him at catman@california.com.

## IN BRIEF

### AUSD fall kindergarten registration

The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to kindergarten for the fall 2000 semester on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave. Starting Feb. 17, children may be registered at Ocean View, Marin, or Cornell schools. Also, children in grades first through fifth who reside in Albany need to register at this time.

Registering your child at the closest school does not guarantee assignment to that school. For kindergarten registration, parents must bring the child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport and be prepared to fill out health forms

concerning vaccinations, immunizations, and childhood diseases.

Documentation of the dates of immunizations for polio, DTP, measles, mumps, rubella, and Hepatitis B for each child is required. No child can enter kindergarten next fall unless s/he has had these immunizations.

Minimum doses required for polio are four, as long as the third dose was received after the fourth birthday; and four doses for DTP, as long as the fourth dose was also received after the fourth birthday. Measles, rubella, and mumps require two doses, provided they were both received after the first birthday.

### Harding Goes Hollywood auction

EL CERRITO — Harding Elemen-

tary School's PTA will host a Harding Goes Hollywood silent and live auction Feb. 12 to raise funds for the school's arts and sciences programs.

Celebrity items such as a script from the movie "Big" signed by director Penny Marshall; a script and photo from the "Mary Tyler Moore" show signed by Ed Asner; a poster from the new movie, "Man on the Moon," signed by director Milos Forman; items from "Apollo 13" autographed by Ron Howard; a photo autographed by the group Hansen, as well as scripts from "Titanic," "Star Trek Voyager," "The Practice" signed by the whole cast, and other signed photos and Hollywood memorabilia will be up for bid. Author-autographed books will also be included, along with items donated by local businesses.

Admission is free. Desserts will be

available for purchase from some of the area's finest bakeries. The event is from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the auditorium of the school, 7230 Fairmount Ave. Details: 510-524-0744.

### Garden of Month contest

Formerly, and officially, it's the Sundar and Shadi Garden Contest. But organizers have decided to turn it into a Garden of the Month contest. It's more of a fun game than anything else. Object of the contest is to inspire a more attractive El Cerrito that is a visual pleasure for all.

Garden Club members have scouted the city looking at gardens and other interesting spots to nominate to give to the committee.

Anybody in El Cerrito can play. Gardens are divided into three cate-

gories: small (storefront, sidewalk, etc.), medium, and large.

Three winners will be announced five times a year: Feb. 1, April 1, July 1, Aug. 1.

The contest winners will be signed by artist Theodor Spivack in their front yards for the months of February and March, and May, or June, or July, or August, and September.

You can nominate your own garden spot, or you can nominate anyone else's. All that needs to be done is call Vera Shadi's office 24 hours at 869-3977 and send an address. It will be followed by a nomination letter.

No names need be left on the dresses. The garden must be from the street, and Garden Club members are not eligible.

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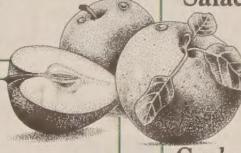
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# Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

February 4, 2000

Section B

**Weekly Sales** The numbers that shape our red-hot market [B9]

**Open Homes** Our handy listings can get you into that new home quicker [B3]

**Classified** Buy it, sell it, trade it inside [B13]

## Survey lauds Realtor performance

By Alan J. Heavens

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS  
A BOOMING real estate market, and happy buyers. A nationwide survey commissioned by the National Association of Realtors showed that the overwhelming majority of people who have bought houses in the last two years were pleased with the way the transaction was handled by their agent or broker.

It also showed that most buyers still use an agent to conduct real estate transactions, despite technological advances that give consumers access to information that once was the exclusive property of the real estate industry.

The survey was done by Hart-Riehle-Hartwig, a division of Peter D. Hart Research Associates in Washington. The firm conducted the telephone survey last fall, contacting 800 people nationwide who had bought houses in the last two years. Results were released this winter.

The last two years have been record ones for house resales in the United States, according to NAR statistics, and the 750,000 members of the organization have benefited from it.

But the industry has been changing rapidly as technological advances transform traditional ways of doing business. Consolidation of firms, as well as the one-stop-shopping concept of providing all real estate services under one roof, are creating new challenges.

In addition, consumer demand for changes in how agents deal with buyers and sellers has made a significant impact on the business.

See SURVEY, Page B10



A NATIONWIDE SURVEY showed that an overwhelming majority of people who have bought houses were pleased with their transactions.

Owning a Piece of History



By  
Mark A.  
Wilson

"Replicas can evoke the warmth of the original homes..."

## Faux styles emerge as real deal

Part three of three parts

Faux is in. The French word for "false" has cachet among upscale developers and home buyers who don't mind borrowing from history to "recreate" classic architectural styles. The word is enjoying a renaissance; faux wrangled its way into common usage in the United States in the 1970s as a watchword for inauthenticity.

For example, a plastic kitchen countertop with a marbled grain pattern was "faux marble." Likewise, some tract home builders painted wood grain on the front of pressboard kitchen cabinets —

See FAUX, Page B7

### Featured Home of the Week

7455 Woodrow Drive

New Listing \$679,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30. This exquisite home is located on a nicely wooded lot w/serene views. Specially textured walls & hand-wrought Italian tiles add European character to the interior spaces. Judy Cain



5917 Contra Costa Road

Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

New Price \$949,000  
Rockridge Retreat w/SF Bay views. Light fills every room of this magnificent August Co. built & designed home. 4BR/3.5 BA + office retreat. Beautifully landscaped level garden. Mavis Delacroix

\$489,000

Lovely Hiller Highlands townhouse with smashing Bay view. 2BR/2BA plus loft. Private terrace off kitchen. Great location. Spacious garage w/ ample storage. Elizabeth Dickson

### By Appointment

Elegant New Home in Orinda

\$2,450,000



Elegant architecture & exceptional detailing accent this stately new Mediterranean home in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow. 6BR/4.5 BA, fabulous kitchen, landscaped garden with pool and decks. John Karnay

35 Binnacle Hill

\$925,000

Spectacular Home in the Oakland Hills  
Sophisticated new Mediterranean design with spacious formal rooms, hardwood floors and gourmet kitchen w/granite counters. 5BR/3BA including wonderful master bedroom retreat. John Karnay

New Craftsman

\$950,000



This fabulous new 5BR/3BA craftsman style home is set on a spacious lot highlighted by serene canyon views, a level yard and terraced garden. Wonderful detailing throughout. John Karnay

Traditional Rockridge Bungalow

New Listing \$189,000

Cute 2BR/1BA fixer with lots of potential. Living room w/fireplace, hardwood floors, formal dining room, kitchen w/breakfast room. Convenient location. Bettina Balestrieri



### New Listings - Coming Soon

Crocker Highlands Traditional

\$499,000

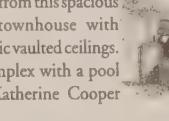


A charming traditional w/large formal rooms, updated eat-in kitchen, spacious family room, 3BR/2BA & spacious park-like garden. Great location! James Garcia

Spacious Townhouse

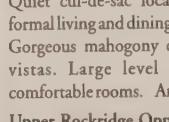
\$360,000

Enjoy a partial bay view from this spacious 3BR/3BA end unit townhouse with master suite and dramatic vaulted ceilings. Set in a wonderful complex with a pool and garage. Katherine Cooper



Restored Rockridge

Price Upon Request



Quiet cul-de-sac location. Traditional formal living and dining, hardwood floors. Gorgeous mahogany deck with hillside vistas. Large level yard. Sunny & comfortable rooms. Anian Pettit Tunney

\$419,000  
Well-built 1956 contemporary w/lovely outlooks & level living. Hardwood floors open beamed ceilings. 2BR/2BA, den/study and spacious hobby room off 2-car garage. Linda McClain

Upper Rockridge

\$395,000

Sited on a tranquil lot and centrally located, this cheery home boasts lovely hardwood floors & plantation shutters. Enjoy the spacious family room downstairs, comfortable deck for summer entertaining. Anian Tunney

Upper Rockridge Opportunity

\$419,000

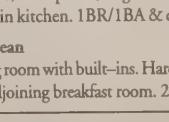


Well-built 1956 contemporary w/lovely outlooks & level living. Hardwood floors open beamed ceilings. 2BR/2BA, den/study and spacious hobby room off 2-car garage. Linda McClain

Classic Glenview Traditional

\$299,000

Spacious formal rooms, sun porch, high ceilings, hardwood floors, garden & spacious eat-in kitchen. 1BR/1BA & den/office. James Garcia



Charming Mediterranean

\$283,000

Living room and dining room with built-ins. Hardwood floors, fireplace & updated kitchen and adjoining breakfast room. 2BR/1BA. Connie Rogers

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# Threatened fireplaces heat passions for home hearth

Berkeley is considering outlawing new wood-burning fireplaces. My family and I love our fireplace and we hate the idea that we might be disallowed from using it. But it might happen; those who are concerned with air pollution insist that wood smoke may be hazardous.

A draft ordinance being circulated for public and health advocacy group review by the Berkeley Community Environmental Advisory Commission eyes the elimination of "wood-burning appliances in new house construction." Appliances mean stoves and fireplaces.

Language in the draft ordinance also suggests that, upon the sale of existing houses containing fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, these appliances would be shut down or converted to gas.

If Berkeley adopts these regulations, real estate agents may be pressed to inform everyone involved. Of course, commissioners thought of us. In addition to current disclosures (lead paint and asbestos, hot water heater strapping and smoke detectors, how to find if sex offenders are living nearby), we agents would have to say, "Yes, it's a beautiful fireplace, but you can't use it. If you want a fire in your house, it will have to be fueled by gas."

No doubt there would be training sessions for agents, booklets to give out, signatures to be obtained to prove that everyone has been duly informed. Agents would develop con-

## True Experiences



By Tarpoff and Talbert

## GET THE FACTS

Nabil Al-Hadithy, secretary of the Berkeley Community Environmental Advisory Commission, invites public feedback on the draft ordinance affecting wood-burning appliances and stoves. For more information, please contact Mary Wing at 510-705-8150 or via e-mail at [maw4@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:maw4@ci.berkeley.ca.us).

Contracts with tradespeople who could give bids on gas fire conversions, the cost of which would be negotiated between the parties.

I suppose someone would have to police the matter and keep track of which houses no longer could burn wood fires. There might be only one home on a given block with a converted fireplace. All the neighbors, not having sold, could go right on having cheery wood fires.

Maybe neighbors could gather at legal fireplaces to warm their backsides, to listen to the crackle of the fire, to smell that superb aroma of dry oak in flames. There could be co-op marshmallow roasts with everyone bringing their own forks or sticks. The host family would supply the hot chocolate.

Would there be reports of abuse, a hotline to report smoke pouring from an unregulated fireplace, an inspector who shows up at the door at night to issue a citation for wrongdoings? Perhaps a new layer of bureaucracy would arise, a city agency with its own budget, even a bond issue voted in by the citizens, to make sure the rules are followed.

### Warm memories

When I was a kid, everyone had a backyard incinerator. Housewives burned their trash - milk cartons, newspapers and the like - standing by with a stick in hand to poke and mix and make sure no burning pieces flew away. Many gas cook stoves had trash burners incorporated into them too. Burning fall leaves was a tradition, a lovely memory: my parents and our neighbors raking the dry leaves from street trees into piles in the gutters and making small bon fires. I'll never forget the delicious smell of the burning leaves.

Those days are gone. My children are too young to have experienced this fall pleasure. I suppose that it (and the trash burning) were de-

clared harmful to the environment and made illegal.

But our fireplace? It is the focal point of our living room. We gather there to warm ourselves, to feel cheerful, to pet the cats curled in circles, napping near the hearth. As my children pass through the living room on the way to the kitchen, the lighted fire draws them and they pause to say a few words. We find and enjoy community around the fireplace.

Could we do these same things in front of a gas fire? I don't know. My only experience with gas fires was in England where they are quite common. Gas fireplaces seemed unfriendly to me: not live, not lively, but more like standing by a lit burner on a gas cook stove.

Also disappointing is that there is no other activity that precedes the lighting of a gas fire, no collecting of dry kindling, stacking, carrying or protection of one's store of firewood, no joy in the splitting of wood with an ax. These activities I would miss very much. I take my fireplace burning seriously; everything surrounding burning wood is seductive, precious to me.

### Hazards possible

I am not an expert on pollution from fireplaces, automobiles or otherwise. It is possible that wood burning is a cause for serious alarm, but I have not been able to locate such

evidence. The committee in Berkeley, as well as similar groups in other cities, looks to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for advice on decreasing pollution. This agency has a Web site on which is offered the Wood Burning Handbook (it is also free by calling them at 1-800-HELP-AIR).

The handbook discusses air pollution from wood smoke, the lung irritation and coughing that they say can result from breathing pollutants.

Listed are proper ways to burn wood ("If you must"), the most efficient woods to burn and a reminder to burn dry, seasoned wood only. The heating efficiency of various fuels is given as preferred burning appliances such as gas fireplaces and fireplace inserts are described.

Nowhere in the handbook was I able to find comparisons of pollution from various sources. Do fireplaces account for a small proportion of pollution, or is it more?

I am not only loathe to give up using my own fireplace; as a real estate agent, I am not anxious to be the bearer of more bad news. Buyers are paying unprecedented prices for housing these days. Both buyers and sellers are burdened with various local regulations as part of house sales including (depending on the city) sewer lateral inspections, energy conservation upgrades, sidewalk replacement, rules concerning who can get what amount of money

## Opinion

for earthquake retrofit. Sellers must now provide environmental hazards reports, city transfer taxes are itemized, most sales, often charged buyer and seller. Last, but not least, under Proposition 200, buyer's property taxes will be (often significantly higher) than were for the previous owners.

Any block in California is considerably dependent when each house last sold.

Do we need something that will separate houses sold from those that remain in the same ownership? Is it really necessary to add point-of-sale ordinances, to be legislated, regularly policed?

There is something about one's own fire in one's own home that seems, well, sacred. Until our ancestors, we are not used to depend upon our fireplaces for cooking, lighting and heating homes. Nevertheless, it is in my I build, light and stoke my

Anet Tarpoff and Pat Talbert censed real estate agents who specialize in single family homes. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. To be reached by e-mail at [patatel@lmi.net](mailto:patatel@lmi.net) or by phone 510-653-2050.

## CORRECTION

A report last week by Mark A. Wilson ("History finds live-work lofts thriving") claimed an Alameda Power & Telecom substation and outbuildings at 1825 Grand St., Alameda, had been appraised and might enter the market as a candidate for residential loft conversion. Alameda Power & Telecom points out that this is not the case; the property still serves the public as a transformer and storage facility. Any change in ownership would have to undergo rigorous public review before anything. We apologize for the error.

— John Snyder  
real estate editor

## 373 40th Street #2 • Temescal District, Oakland

This unique live/work loft is located four blocks from Piedmont Ave. restaurants shopping and cafes. The common area has a koi pond, garden and B.B.Q. pit.



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### Oakland

**\$39,000 HILLMONT DR.**, Secluded view lot located between 7544 & 7552 Hillmont. See City of Oakland for Building requirements. Great potential! Margaret Lomba 814-4829

**\$65,000 1400 E. 15th ST.** Commercial lot extending **PENDING** 14th Ave. Adjacent **home** also for sale. Bev & George Williams 522-7173

**\$149,000 1695 8th ST.** Perfect live-work rehab opportunity! Approx. 3000 sq.ft. of space. Gutted, needs total rehab. 3 meters. Priced to sell! Call for details. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

**\$189,000 867 WOOD ST.** OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4:30. Absolutely beautiful Victorian cottage! Three Bedrooms, 1 bath, totally redone with new foundation, roof, plumbing, electrical, heat, kitchen and bath! New landscaping with sprinklers. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

**\$189,000 3726 Magee Ave.** Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in the Laurel District. **PENDING** painted interior. **PENDING** minutes from Coddington. Excellent return. Margaret Lomba (510) 814-4829

### Piedmont

**\$850,000 716 BLAIR AVE.** Elegant 4 Bedroom, 3 bath **PENDING** Piedmont! Freshly **PENDING** interior. Contemporary, single level home with family room, 2 fireplaces, and attached double car garage. Tere Lee 814-4829

### San Leandro

**\$195,000 14382 Outrigger Dr.** Pergo floors, ceiling fans, **PENDING** ceilings, and wash **PENDING** bed! Two separate **PENDING** community pool, spa, and tennis courts. Near Tony Lama golf course. Tere Lee 814-4840

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**\$1,295,000 2200 COUNTY CENTER DR.** Investment Property! Eight large professional suites - 1 level. Located off 101 and Steel. **PENDING** minutes from Coddington. Excellent return. Margaret Lomba (510) 814-4829

## 5672 Thornhill Drive, Oakland



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**Berkeley Hills New Listing! \$429,000**  
Nestled in a hillside setting, this 1920's traditional has been owned by the same family since 1957. Filled with sunlight and good memories, this home features three bedrooms, an office/den, and a family room/master suite with full bath. Kitchen and both baths have been tastefully remodeled. For more information call Kathie Berg, 559-1444 x 34. Open Sun. 2-4 935 Regal Rd. Berkeley



**New Listing! \$259,000**  
This great 3 bd, 1.5 ba starter home is located in cell El Cerrito near the Community Center. Features include fireplace in living room, freshly painted interior and hardwood floors throughout. Extra deep lot with shed.

Open Sun. 1-4 840 Norwell St. El Cerrito  
Darrell Hoh 527-9111, 559-2905

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# Buyer beware in fierce market

## Real Estate Forum



By Dian Hymer

Highest bid, quickest close and fewest contingencies prevail. But this strategy brings clear risks...

sible. Follow up with your agent to find out the selling price of listings you've seen. This is how you learn to gauge current market value.

Find out as much as you can about the sellers and their situation. This will enable you to tailor your offer to meet their needs. For example, the sellers might prefer a certain closing date, or they may wish to stay in possession after closing.

When competition is fierce, it's usually the offer with the highest price, the quickest close and the least number of contingencies that meets with success. Be open to taking back-up position if your offer isn't the winner. Deals can fall apart. If you're in back-up position, your offer will become primary without the listing going back on the open market.

sibly lose money when you sell.

Another risk arises if you waive an inspection contingency in order to be competitive, and a defect is uncovered later that you have to pay to repair. Or, you might buy the property "as is" but then neglect to take care of correcting defects that were disclosed in the seller's inspection reports.

Later, when you sell, you'll probably have to pay to correct these defects, and meanwhile the market may have softened. Before making an offer in a competitive market, get preapproved for the loan you'll need to complete the purchase.

To get preapproved, you'll need to go through the complete mortgage application process. It's best to assume that there are plenty of other qualified buyers in the market. You need to be as prepared as they are. If you need to sell your current home in order to buy another one, you'll probably have to sell it first in order to compete.

Understand the risks of buying in a competitive market. One risk is that you may pay a precedent-setting price. If so, you may have to own the property for years before you can sell it and break even. The reward, of course, is that you own the house and someone else.

But, if you're not sure you'll be putting it for several years, you should reconsider buying it unless you're prepared to pos-

Look at as many listings as pos-

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### BERKELEY



**27 TANGLEWOOD** • Open Sunday 2-4:30. Big dramatic new listing in the Claremont! Level; great entertaining; 4+ bedrooms, 4 baths. Cosmetic fixer. Dennis practice court! Tricia Swift, ext. 140 ..... \$900,000



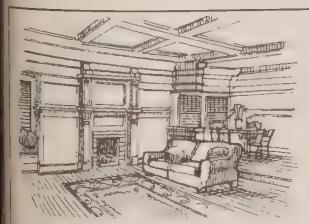
**971 EUCLID** • Open Sun 2-4:30. NORTH BERKELEY 1930 SPANISH COLONIAL designed by Edwin Lewis Snyder. Tiled roof, brick entry courtyard, grand living room w/vaulted ceiling & large square parquet floors, French doors to patio. Tricia Swift, ext. 140 ..... \$645,000



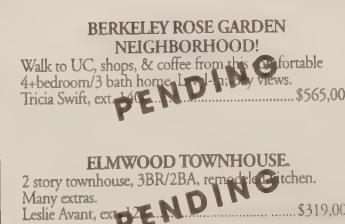
**95 VICENTE** Located with approved plans or "build to suit"! Exciting blend of Craftsman style with modern engineering and amenities, bringing the past into the future! Bebe McRAE, ext. 145 ..... \$465,000



**2957 Pine** • Open Sun 2-5. Very special Elmwood craftsman! One level 2+BR, 1.5BA, updated kitchen & bath. Bebe McRAE, ext. 145 ..... \$425,000



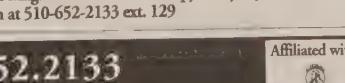
**2600 ETNA #1** Elegant studio condo in the Elmwood. Coffered ceilings, hardwood floors, and walk to everything! Ron Egherman, ext. 127 ..... \$155,000



**BERKELEY ROSE GARDEN NEIGHBORHOOD!** Walk to UC, shops, & coffee from this comfortable 4+bedroom/3 bath home. Large windows. Many extras. Leslie Avant, ext. 145 ..... \$565,000



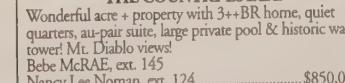
**ELMWOOD TOWNHOUSE** 2 story townhouse, 3BR/2BA, remodeled kitchen. Many extras. Leslie Avant, ext. 145 ..... \$319,000



**ALAMO**  
**THE COUNTRY ESTATE** Wonderful acre + property with 3+BR home, quiet quarters, au-pair suite, large private pool & historic water tower! Mt. Diablo views! Bebe McRAE, ext. 145  
Nancy Lee Norman, ext. 124 ..... \$850,000

### OAKLAND

**HILLER HIGHLANDS** Handsome townhome. 3BR, 2.5BA. South Bay views, quiet location, huge sunroom/pk space. Tricia Swift, ext. 145 ..... \$595,000



**Merrion at Emerald Park** From mid \$300,000's. Final Release! Lux, mstr. plan. comm. w/ 3 designs, to 2200 sq. ft. 5BR/3BA, loft. Hacienda off 580 nr. BART. Open 10-5, Mon. 2-5. www.richmondamerican.com ..... \$925,829-8029

**Starward** From mid \$300,000's. New Release! 3-4BR, 2BA, 2 story, steel built. Garden setting! Views/hwy, access/shopping/schools. 580/exit San Ramon No. rt. Amador Vly / rt. Starward Dr. www.schulerca.com ..... \$925,875-1060

**Fairfield**

**Ridgeview at Paradise Valley**

From mid \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Spacious, to 7BR, 1-80 ft. Texas St. rt. Dickson Hill / rt. Dover / rt. Manuel Campos / rt. Paradise Vly. Dr. 10-5/Mon. 2-5. www.richmondamerican.com ..... \$707,438-7800

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Follow up with your agent to find out the selling price of listings you've seen. This is how you learn to gauge current market value.

Find out as much as you can about the sellers and their situation. This will enable you to tailor your offer to meet their needs. For example, the sellers might prefer a certain closing date, or they may wish to stay in possession after closing.

When competition is fierce, it's usually the offer with the highest price, the quickest close and the least number of contingencies that meets with success. Be open to taking back-up position if your offer isn't the winner. Deals can fall apart. If you're in back-up position, your offer will become primary without the listing going back on the open market.

Later, when you sell, you'll probably have to pay to correct these defects, and meanwhile the market may have softened. Before making an offer in a competitive market, get preapproved for the loan you'll need to complete the purchase.

To widen your choice of inventory, which will maximize your chances of getting into a home faster, look in several locations. One couple recently closed on a home after making eight offers in three counties. It took them a year of hard work and perseverance.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide." Available in book stores or from Chronicle Books: (800) 722-6657.

## STUNNING NEW CONSTRUCTION



### 1335 NORVELL STREET, EL CERRITO

Offered at \$439,000

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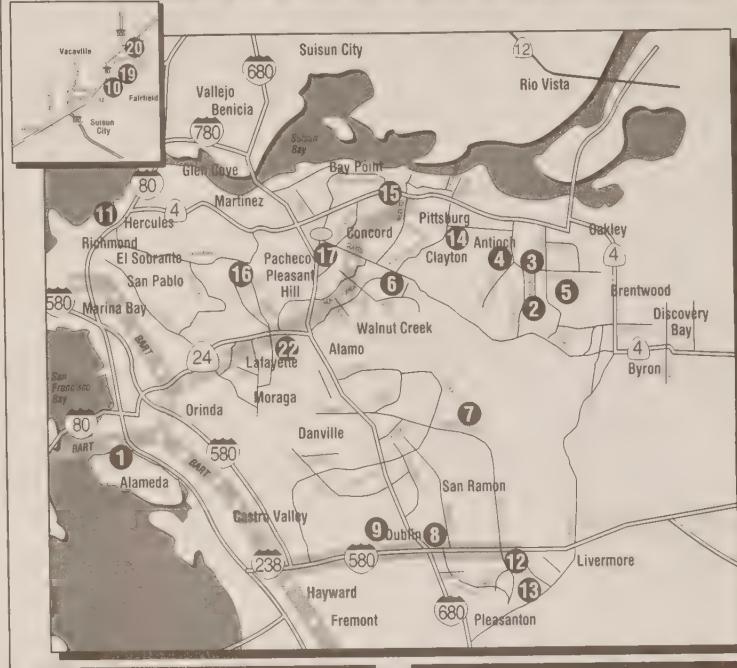
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#### ANTIOCH

#### 2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls

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From low \$200,000's. Affordable Luxury Living! Designs to 2700 sq. ft., 5BR, 3BA. Commute loc. at Fairview/San Jose. Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193. www.richmondamerican.com.

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#### 7 DANVILLE

#### 7 Campbell Place

From the \$800,000's. 20 craftsman-style on lg. view lots w/plex. 660 to Sycamore Vly. Rd. E/rt. onto Camino Tassajara/rt. on Glasgow Dr./rt. on Sycamore Vly. Rd. 925-743-0236

#### 8 DUBLIN

#### 9 Merrion at Emerald Park

From high \$300,000's. Final Release! Lux, mstr. plan. comm. w/ 3 designs, to 2200 sq. ft. 5BR/3BA, loft. Hacienda off 580 nr. BART. Open 11-5, Mon. 2-5. www.richmondamerican.com ..... \$925,829-8029

#### 10 Starward

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#### 11 FAIRFIELD

#### 10 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley

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From mid \$200,000's. Now previewing! Estates sized homes up to 4300 s.f. on 10,000 s.f. min. lots. 4-7 BR, 3-car gar. & opt. bonus spaces. 180 to Alamo east, rt. on Peabody, rt. on Foxboro. Seen Homes 707-454-0100. www.seenohomes.com

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# Borrowers gain in new loan deal

Fannie Mae streamline product sweetens taste of 'vanilla loan'

A little over two years ago, Fannie Mae rolled out desktop underwriting. This process was designed only for borrower with sterling credit and adequate assets — what we call in the industry a vanilla loan, the kind every lender wants to make.

But recently, Fannie Mae re-evaluated their risk layering formulas and are approving loans, that we would have considered unapprovable at "A" paper rates.

Underwriting your loan is how a lender evaluates your ability to service or repay the debt. Desktop underwriter has represented a more sophisticated way of assessing mortgage risk, enabling the tailoring of specific loan terms based on an individual borrower's risk profile.

These flexibilities include streamlined documentation and appraisals, flexible mortgage insurance requirements and expanded loan to value ratios and product offering. It is limited to conforming loan amounts.

The conforming loan limits set for 2000 are: one unit, \$252,700; two units, \$323,400; three units, \$390,900; four units, \$485,800.

In the past 30-odd years, the lending institutions — thrifts, savings and loans, and banks — have developed specific criteria to analyze your credit worthiness. These "rules" involved your credit history, your income, cash flow history and your asset base which determined your ability to manage and save your money.

Rules-based underwriting usually involves volumes of paperwork, the lender wants to see your W2s, a two year job history, tax returns with all schedules for at least two years, current pay stubs, three to 12 months bank statements for all checking and savings accounts, stocks and bond portfolio documentation, retirement account documentation, pink slips for your cars and boats, divorce decrees and settlement agreements — and that's just your asset and income documentation.

The lender also requires a full residential mortgage credit report (also known as a RMCR), this usually will cost you between \$50 and \$60 and is a tri-merge compilation of the three credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian (formerly TRW) and Trans Union Credit.

The people at Fannie Mae, fulfilling their mission statement "to provide financial products and services that increase the availability and the affordability of housing for low, moderate and middle income Americans" created a process called risk layered underwriting.

Also known as the Fannie Mae streamline, this process uses the high tech information super highway to provide a credit only loan pre-approval in the time it takes to gather

## Mortgage Madness

By Karen Senzic

"We saw an approval in which the borrower's housing ratio was nearly 100 percent..."

**"What has prompted Fannie Mae's new, benevolent attitude?"**

the information for the loan application. And, even taking the application information is faster than before as Fannie Mae's big black box (the computer that processes the information in seconds) only requires about 65 percent of the normal application information.

The credit report also is ordered and received before the application is completed. For those of us who process as well as originate loans, this is really neat — all of the information is gathered via computer, and the credit report automatically fills out the liabilities section of the application, saving imputing time. The credit report saves the borrowers a little bit of money, as Fannie Mae only requires a pre-qualification report which costs \$17 to \$18.

The risk-layered underwriting is a different orientation, not just a fast underwriting process and was based primarily on credit scores, after gathering housing and loan information over the prior 30 years, Fannie Mae has fed a lot of conclusions as to how people repay their mortgages into the big black box.

They were instrumental in developing the credit scoring system with the credit bureaus, they have concluded that anyone with a 680 score or better will probably pay their mortgage on time.

We recently reviewed case histories with Fannie Mae pre-approvals in which the credit scores were as low as 543, usually considered "C" paper.

The original program would not lend to anyone who had lost property to foreclosure and had a rule that any borrowers who suffered through bankruptcy needed four years breathing room before they would qualify for a Fannie Mae loan.

Now Fannie Mae will consider borrowers who are just out of bank-

ruptcy (at least one and one half months since the bankruptcy dismissal) and/or if they have had a recent foreclosure.

What has prompted this new, benevolent attitude?

Fannie Mae added additional risk factoring to the big black box's formulas, they have added large down payments (25 percent or greater), retirement accounts and large family gifts, additional assets of any kind (homes, cars, boats) that may be sold to complete the transaction are also considered where they were not before.

Borrowers with good credit but high ratios (the borrower's housing expense — principal, interest, taxes, insurance and mortgage insurance divided by the borrower's income) are still potential buyers and refinancers under the new formula.

Before, we were excited when good credit borrowers could go as high as 60 percent. We recently saw an approval in which the borrower's housing ratio was nearly 100 percent because of an exceptional asset base.

As before, the pre-approval handed down by the big black box is not a final approval but is subject to conditions set by Fannie Mae and the actual lender that is making the loan.

The "underwriting report" that comes back as "Fannie Mae approved/eligible" means that the loan meets Fannie Mae's credit risk profile. However, the lender must be careful in reviewing the requested documentation and conditions to determine if there is any potentially derogatory information not part of the information submitted to the desktop underwriter.

Underwriting is the most technical portion of the mortgage process, a science practiced by people with years of training and experience and often, they claim, little time left for a life. Fannie Mae's big black box has taken this science into the new millennium and with its streamline process may give some of these people their lives back.

It may also offer many borrowers who felt that they were years away from purchasing a home with a decent interest rate a new life to live as well.

Karen Senzic is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511; fax 510-339-3814 and E-mail ksenzic@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

# 646 Caldwell

**646 Caldwell Rd.**  
**Montclair Jewel**  
Rare! A level backyard



**Asking \$234,500**

Wonderful Craftsman-style bungalow with non-conforming "in-law" unit. The style of yesterday lingers with the large foyer, hardwood floors, fireplace in the formal dining room, sunroom and large kitchen with pantry. For those needing to share living space, downstairs offers a separate entrance with living/dining area, two bedrooms, one bath and a great kitchen. This unique property is located on quiet dead-end street and is minutes away from the popular shopping and major transportation of the Fruitvale district.

**Open Sunday 2-4:30**

**Open Sunday 2-4:30**

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**Montclair Jewel**

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**\$210,000**

MARIA SINCLAIR 510-287-9596

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6616 Woodland Pl.

NAHD NASSIRI 510-287-5770

**YOU WILL BE IMPRESSED!** ..... \$180,000

Spacious San Leandro 2-story townhouse has many extras - family room, fireplace, deck, enclosed back yard and some bay view from master bedroom. Very convenient to freeway and transportation.

16696 Foothill Blvd.

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Only 8 months new. Don't miss this great 3BD, 2.5 BA San Ramon home with Pergo floors in kitchen and nook, alarm system, window coverings and much more!

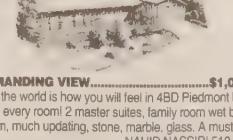
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**\$619,000**

# First person: Moving on from childhood memories

By Ted Anthony  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONSON PARK, Pa. — Of course no house can wake me. Its memo-  
ries and rhythms are my own, and  
residence holds far more wisdom  
than my words.

Time together is short now;  
parents will move, perhaps  
within the year, and strangers will  
occupy. This is how a house grows  
older — not when its people die,  
but when it gradually swells with ex-  
periences and images and memories,  
loses those who made the mem-  
ories. The house is eventually left,  
to overflow in the presence  
of strangers.

Soon, but not just yet.  
I still claim this space for a bit  
longer, reserving the right to my silent

3 a.m. recollections. In noise's absence, you can feel when a house is full, when hearts beat behind doors. My parents, smaller and grayer now, still sleep in the master bedroom.

Life's trinkets and ephemera still jam drawers. Pictures and paintings and sculptures are still arranged, food still fills pantries, and cars still rest in the cinder-block garage — everything still in its meticulous, Mom-arranged location.

She knew the house's darkness frightened me when I was small, and she produced a solution. She took a toy — an orange, doughnut-shaped piece of Fisher-Price plastic — and attached it to a long string that dangled from my closet light down, down, down almost to the floor. When I awoke in the dark and was

afraid, I needed only to pull the doughnut with my little hand and create illumination and safety.

"Now," she told me, "you control the light."

## Dreaming of this house

As I grew, the string migrated upward, scissors cut by scissors cut. Now I am 31 and 6-foot-1, and it hangs near my chin when holidays call me home.

When I am an old man, I will dream of this house. I will struggle to summon detail that, at this moment, are clear and abundant and fingertip-accessible.

Tonight, each creak of hardwood floor, each squeak of each door is at my command, as it has been for three decades. I know how the stairs

groan under the feet of a 70-pound boy and a 200-pound man. I know which of the front wall's five switches turns on the stairwell light, something my father has never learned.

The square-brown pattern on the cold basement floor is the desktop wallpaper of my imagination. I greet as a familiar friend the rock-slide rumble that the ice-maker makes when it drops a freshly frozen load. I know just how to tilt my head so it won't bang against the downstairs ceiling that the builders accidentally constructed one brick too low. Instant, all of it.

How will I say goodbye? Will it be on an upbeat moving day full of packing tape and cartons and minia-  
ture? Or upon my parents' bittersweet relocation to a retirement commu-

nity? Perhaps it will even be after a funeral, or a second funeral.

## Childhood remembered

I look at the quiet rooms and hallways today and I see scenes from home movies we never made, grainy tableaux of a world where even fights and yelling, however rare, become, from the present's vantage, part of the context of a loving childhood. I have not "lived" here for 13 years; friends are gone, high school memories stale. But this house is still my skin. It knows me as I know it.

Up the road a mile or so, even farther north of Pittsburgh, they've built more big suburban living places and are planning even more — scores of them, fresh and rowed like Grade-A eggs in a carton. Each awaits its own

life cycle of milestones both momentous and prosaic — move-in day, children born and growing, kitchen-table conversations, high-school graduates headed off toward college, and, finally, "For Sale" signs, and the cycle beginning again. Each awaits the chance to cultivate its own 3 a.m. floor creeks.

## Here becomes there

They are all irrelevant duplicates to me. And mine will become something different soon, never entirely a stranger but no longer a close friend. A new family will build new memories. The plastic doughnut will retreat to my mind, hanging by a string behind my eye, forever awaiting a tug to illuminate memory's hallways and bring me back to the safety of a here that, for me, will cease to be.

## Faux

FROM PAGE B1

Carroll — "faux wood."

During most of the 1970s and 1980s, faux raised the specter of poor taste. That began to change in the late 1980s and early 1990s, with the *new* *rich* commissioning higher-end homes in architecturally accurate replicas of historic styles.

Today, there are many parts of the Bay Area where such newly-conceived historic replicas are common. In Sonoma and Napa counties, the outskirts of such cities as Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Napa are dotted with numerous faux *casas* or imitation French Provincial-style homes. With their steeply angled roofs, slate tiles, dormer windows, and arched windows, they look like the real thing from a distance.

Closer to home, in Benicia's waterfront area, there are dozens of faux Victorian homes and townhouses. Home buyers in these developments can choose from "new" Queen Anne, Stick-Eastlake, or Italianate-style houses that look almost

as authentic as the nearby Victorian era residences from the late 19th century.

In the East Bay, Oakland — the part that was burned out in the 1991 fire — has seen the most construction of "faux historic" houses. In upper Rockridge, Hiller Highlands and Upper Montclair, scores of historic replicas have been built. These upscale residences mostly duplicate styles from the early 20th century, such as Spanish Colonials, Georgian Revivals and Craftsman.

You can find examples of such nearly new faux historic homes in the Oakland hills advertised every weekend in the paper's open homes guide. For example, at 6151 Swainland Rd. in Montclair a two-year-old Spanish style house listed last Sunday for \$925,000. The red clay tiled roof, pastel stuccoed walls and iron grillwork are classic features of homes from the Spanish Colonial period of the 18th century. And at 5959 Margarido Dr. in upper Rockridge, a three-bedroom Craftsman house built in 1993 listed at \$775,000.

Such faux Craftsman houses are among the most sought-after types of historic replicas; they evoke the warmth of the original Craftsman

homes, with their built-ins in the living room and dining room, stone or tile-faced fireplaces and wainscoting along the walls of the large downstairs rooms.

Middle- and upper-income American homeowners have enjoyed historic replicas for generations:

## Greek Revival

The first style of residential architecture in America to imitate a past style was Greek Revival. Introduced to the United States by Thomas Jefferson in the 1780s in Virginia, this style was first used for public buildings such as state capitols and university halls. When used on such large public structures as the Virginia State Capitol Building, designed by Jefferson in 1785, this style looks much as it did when it was originally used on temples in ancient Greece, with pedimented rooflines, bilateral symmetry and a row of tall columns across the front.

When the Greek Revival style was applied to residential architecture, it almost always looked like a caricature of a Greek temple, though often a pleasing one. Ancient Greek homes never adopted the style of their temples, despite what modern-

day cartoons and comic books may imply.

## Victorian Era

The next period that employed historic replicas was the Victorian Era. All across America, during the reign of Queen Victoria between 1837 and 1901, mock Gothic castles, sham Italian Renaissance villas and imitation Tudor great halls were built for the *nouveau riche* of that time. However these Victorian Era residences were rarely accurate reproductions of the styles they imitated, but rather loose and often whimsical adaptations.

## Transitional Era

This was also true of the Transitional era architectural movement known as Colonial Revival, which

## RESOURCES:

To learn more about the Period Revival styles mentioned in this column, check out these books:

■ **A Living Legacy: Historic Architecture of the East Bay**, Lexicos Press, by Mark Wilson, 1987. Local historic styles, detailed drawings.

■ **Rehab Right**, by Helaine C. Prentiss, Ten Speed Press, 1995. Guide to styles of historic Alameda County.

■ **A Guide to Architecture in Northern California and the Bay Area**, by David Gebhard, et al., Peregrine Smith, 1985. Overview of historic Northern California.

It was not until the turn of the last century, with a movement known as Period Revivals, that American home builders really began to use historically accurate reproductions of past styles.

## Period Revival

Beginning about 1895 on the East Coast, the Period Revival Movement

was prevalent in the United States from about 1890 to 1920. Colonial Revival houses were usually loose and free adaptations of various Early American motifs.

They often mixed and matched details from different centuries, such as 17th century overhangs from New England saltboxes with 18th century palladian windows from Georgian houses.

We can consider Period Revival homes of the first half of the 20th century to be forerunners to today's faux historic homes. They appealed to status-conscious, newly successful middle class professionals and many upper class "old money" families.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at [www.topbroker.com/wilson](http://www.topbroker.com/wilson).

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room, hardwood firs, fireplace

Suzanne Yamamoto

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Karen Lum

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Montclair ..... \$495,000

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&lt;p

# Bigger, badder better — again

By Carlos Tejada  
and Patrick Barta  
WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE NATION'S average price for a new home now exceeds \$200,000, the Commerce Department just reported. To see why, take a peek inside Rich and Diane Bean's double-decker walk-in closet. It's under the staircase, just down the hall from their two-oven kitchen and steps from the master bathroom, with its vaulted ceiling.

Even though the Beans culled their wardrobes before moving to Southlake, Texas, in September, they hang some of their more seldom-worn apparel on racks more than 10 feet above the floor. Diane Bean, who is 48 years old and of average height, can barely touch the hems. "If you're 10 feet tall, they're great," she says as she reaches up to tug on a skirt.

In the heavily windowed family room of the Bean's new \$360,000 home, a Carpenters song on the radio fills the expanse beneath a 20-foot-high ceiling. Rich Bean, 50, a construction-company president, concedes that the big windows and the house's generous size — 3,800 square feet — may make it less energy-efficient than it could be. But, he says, "We just wanted that, whatever the price may be."

Like the American waistline, the new American home is getting larger. Empty nesters, baby boomers at the tops of their careers and the young and options-rich all are buying homes with more bedrooms, more bathrooms and more flourishes than ever before. And it shows: The average new-home price was \$209,700 in November, up 4.2 percent from an upwardly revised \$201,300 in October and up 17 percent from a year earlier. The increase reflects both the demand for more amenities and the higher costs of land, building materials and labor.

Even luxury builders are amazed at the depth and breadth of the demand. "Does anybody need all this? No," says Robert Toll, chief executive officer of Toll Brothers Inc., the nation's largest high-end home builder. His company builds some of its homes with recesses designed to display statues or outdoor features such as pillared driveway entrances. "We



KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

THE NEW "AVERAGE"? This \$4 million spec house in New Jersey is typical of the trend toward bigger, fancier homes.

sell what nobody needs," he says.

In fact, need is hardly a consideration these days. Thanks to low unemployment, relatively low mortgage rates and a long run of stock-market profits, more and more home buyers feel like they can buy what they want, and that, it turns out, is quite a lot.

Though about half of today's new homes sell for \$167,400 or less, the average size is 2,230 square feet, about 10 percent more than a decade ago. Most have at least three bedrooms, and more than half have two stories and at least 2½ baths, roughly one for each member of the average household. "People want incredible amounts of space now," says Leslie Barry Davidson, a Houston architect. They "don't come in and say they want good materials, good labor, good craftsmanship. They come in and say, 'I want space for all my stuff,'

for my clothes, my skis, my junk.'"

#### Simply appalled

To Houston architect William Stern, who builds just two or three large homes a year, the trend is appalling. The bigger-is-better trend is about "showing off to neighbors," he says. "People are saying, 'I can be a 1920s tycoon like anybody else!'

Perhaps that's why the high end of the market is particularly frothy. In northern New Jersey, builders are putting up as many as 25 speculative homes each month with price tags between \$500,000 and \$1 million each. Most of the homes are targeted at executives relocating to the New York area, but a handful are designed specifically for Wall Street types with incomes fattened by year-end bonuses.

Whether the buyers will actually

be there when the homes are finished isn't clear. "The relocation market makes sense; the magic money market is a little harder to predict," says Patrick O'Keefe, chief executive of New Jersey's builders association.

Though some expect higher interest rates to put the brakes on the current housing boom, the trend toward bigger homes reflects a demographic shift and a general feeling that homes aren't just housing, but an investment. A couple of decades ago, first-time home buyers were almost forced to turn to the suburbs because that was where they could find cheap land and affordable tract homes. Now, while some new homes are "tear-downs" in established urban neighborhoods, the vast majority are in suburban developments often aimed at repeat home buyers who want a bigger piece of land and an

escape from the pressures of city life.

#### Another crash?

With housing prices climbing just about everywhere the last few years, buyers also seem to have forgotten the crashes that devastated home values a decade ago in California, New York and Texas. "Generally, people believe the stock market is more volatile" than the housing market, says Nicolas P. Retsinas, director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

The Beans, for instance, wanted a big, comfortable home to come home to after moving 13 times since the early 1980s while Rich was climbing the corporate ladder. The upstairs TV room, outfitted with University of Nebraska football souvenirs, has room for a pool table. The

The new American house is getting larger, and so is its price

oversized bedroom houses, equipment. The half-acre lot is a dog. "We're going to be big enough, so we made it the way we wanted," Rich Bean says.

The couple also studied the nation's surging housing market, concluded that a big house have better resale potential than a smaller one. "Perhaps we'll have to move again, but we'll be house that we needed because that's what we wanted," he says.

The big home isn't a new idea. In the 1890s, economist Alfred Marshall noted that as people progressively, they wanted better clothes and larger houses both for comfort and social standing. In the first two decades of the century, says Houston architect historian Stephen Fox, home builders preferred spacious houses with lots of windows, large rooms, andings that exceeded 9 feet and reached 12 feet.

#### More confidence

By the 1930s, however, the pressure and changing tastes builders to construct smaller houses with smaller rooms and fewer windows. Ceiling heights dropped what became a standard. Homes grew again after World War II, but the average new home actually shrank slightly during each decade of the past three decades, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Today, Americans again are becoming confident about buying big houses. In 1998, more than 10 percent of U.S. households had incomes of more than \$100,000, up from 7.5 percent in 1988. Then, there's the long run-up in the stock market. Michael Levine, a year-old garment executive, sold the extra amenities in his new home by selling shares of Microsoft. His 5,000-square-foot \$640,000 home is currently being built on an acre in the Philadelphia suburb of Hope, Pa., will include a conservatory with a view of the mountains as well as a spacious, well-appointed kitchen. "Not that anybody but it looks impressive."

See BIG, Page B11

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## WEEKLY HOME SALES

**ALAMEDA**  
 12 Buena Vista Av - \$185,000  
 1200 Central Reef Rd - \$365,000  
 1200 Everett St - \$240,000  
 1200 Foothill St - \$190,000  
 1200 Gibbons Dr - \$591,000  
 1200 Grand St - \$505,000  
 1200 Haught Av - \$233,000  
 1200 Johnson Av - \$255,000  
 1200 Johnson Ln - \$267,500  
 1200 Maryland Dr - \$275,000  
 1200 Maitland Dr - \$237,000  
 1200 McMurtry Ct - \$610,000  
 1200 Pacific Av - \$242,000  
 1200 Pond Isle - \$465,000

## On the average

## ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 14  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$185,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$610,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$255,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$332,893

## BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 17  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 255,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,223,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 365,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 460,765

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$199,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$429,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$285,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$311,286

## EL SOLARANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$152,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$268,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$159,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$184,100

## EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$153,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$185,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$157,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$165,000

## KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1

1320 79th Av - \$98,000  
 1638 84th Av - \$109,000  
 1216 87th St - \$235,000  
 2512 98th Av - \$202,000  
 1007 Apgar St - \$144,000  
 565 Bellevue Av #1505 - \$190,000  
 565 Bellevue Av #1708 - \$205,500  
 389 Belmont St #310 - \$188,000  
 3221 Blandon Rd - \$220,000  
 5955 Bruns Ct - \$331,000  
 3101 Burdeck Dr - \$435,500  
 1719 Chase St - \$160,500  
 7538 Circle Hill Dr - \$260,000  
 6276 Colton Bl - \$339,000  
 5023 Congress Av - \$155,000  
 4200 Coolidge Av - \$439,000  
 9260 Coral Rd - \$118,000  
 9793 Coral Rd - \$125,500  
 455 Crescent St #113 - \$55,000  
 3956 Delmont Av - \$171,000  
 1128 East 22nd St - \$155,000  
 10605 East St - \$105,000  
 299 Euclid Av - \$480,000  
 3752 Fruitvale Av - \$220,000  
 308 Gramercy Pl - \$100,500  
 3516 Gray St - \$160,000  
 6924 Halliday Av - \$70,000  
 1524 Hampel St - \$360,000  
 7930 Hansom Dr - \$375,000  
 4110 Harbor View Av - \$280,000  
 3121 Harrison St - \$115,500  
 3825 High St #106 - \$164,000  
 3825 High St #3 - \$164,000  
 1040 Hubert Rd - \$635,000  
 2714 Humboldt Av - \$165,000  
 151 Lakeside Dr #102 - \$85,000  
 10400 Longfellow Av - \$184,000

1343 106th Av - \$185,000  
 2108 108th Av - \$129,000  
 1625 11th St - \$80,000  
 2031 19th Av - \$150,000  
 1729 23rd Av - \$160,000  
 2339 26th Av - \$124,000  
 4355 39th Av - \$270,500  
 1223 1st Av - \$93,000  
 414 43rd St - \$260,000  
 344 45th St - \$210,000  
 304 50th Av - \$140,000  
 304 54th St - \$220,000  
 151 58th St - \$199,000  
 337 61st St - \$210,000  
 2336 62nd Av - \$207,000  
 1833 69th Av - \$139,000  
 2518 74th Av - \$151,000

## OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 87  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 55,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$840,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$184,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$226,931

## PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 78,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,500,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,049,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,459,500

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 28  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 70,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$849,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$167,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$207,393

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 23  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$144,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$362,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$235,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$237,826

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 8  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$215,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$335,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$237,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$250,500

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 1712 140th Av - \$255,000  
 1471 153rd Av - \$179,000  
 15671 Anchorage Dr - \$362,000  
 2237 Aquatic Ct - \$335,000  
 400 Davis St #209 - \$181,000  
 270 Estabrook St - \$182,000  
 125 Georgia Wy - \$220,000  
 15205 Hesperian Bl - \$176,000  
 2349 Jamaica Wy - \$247,000  
 512 Lewis Av - \$205,000  
 1352 Maria Dr - \$230,000  
 16364 Mateo St - \$187,000  
 15473 Montreal St - \$235,000  
 15519 Montreal St - \$257,000  
 1480 Plaza Dr - \$245,000  
 981 Portola Dr - \$264,000  
 960 Ramona Wy - \$270,000  
 14569 Santiago Rd - \$259,000  
 1256 Sherry Ct - \$270,000  
 596 Sybil Av - \$217,000  
 15335 Washington Av #104 - \$144,000  
 16019 Windsor Dr - \$240,000  
 2405 Yaffe Dr - \$310,000

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 853 Jan Ct - \$215,000  
 708 Via Aires - \$218,000  
 1696 Via Buena Vista - \$237,000  
 1137 Via Coralla - \$275,000  
 17430 Via Julia - \$220,000  
 1755 Via Lobos - \$253,000  
 580 Via Pacheco - \$251,000  
 968 William Dr - \$335,000

## 506 Scenic Av - \$789,000

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 728 15th St - \$113,000  
 550 43rd St - \$243,000  
 689 5th St - \$70,000  
 4566 Berk Av - \$167,000  
 2393 Brooks Av - \$103,000  
 5339 Brookwood Ct - \$355,000  
 3093 Deseret Dr - \$230,000  
 1761 Dunn Av - \$132,500  
 2857 Esmond Av - \$156,500  
 2035 Gaynor Av - \$158,000  
 1255 Greenway Dr - \$190,000  
 1331 Hellings Av - \$118,000  
 713 Kern St - \$209,000  
 2855 Loyola Av - \$155,000  
 3810 MacDonald Av - \$200,000  
 4700 Meadowbrook Dr - \$165,000  
 1343 Monterey St - \$108,000  
 1063 Parkside Dr - \$175,000  
 895 Parkside Dr - \$180,000  
 1301 Quarry Ct #213 - \$315,000  
 5620 San Jose Av - \$235,000  
 632 South 20th St - \$70,000  
 410 South 28th St - \$127,000  
 219 South 6th St - \$85,000  
 19 Stairley Dr - \$330,000  
 469 Western Dr - \$849,000  
 480 Western Dr - \$323,000  
 4503 Whitecliff Wy - \$245,000

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 1712 140th Av - \$255,000  
 1471 153rd Av - \$179,000  
 15671 Anchorage Dr - \$362,000  
 2237 Aquatic Ct - \$335,000  
 400 Davis St #209 - \$181,000  
 270 Estabrook St - \$182,000  
 125 Georgia Wy - \$220,000  
 15205 Hesperian Bl - \$176,000  
 2349 Jamaica Wy - \$247,000  
 512 Lewis Av - \$205,000  
 1352 Maria Dr - \$230,000  
 16364 Mateo St - \$187,000  
 15473 Montreal St - \$235,000  
 15519 Montreal St - \$257,000  
 1480 Plaza Dr - \$245,000  
 981 Portola Dr - \$264,000  
 960 Ramona Wy - \$270,000  
 14569 Santiago Rd - \$259,000  
 1256 Sherry Ct - \$270,000  
 596 Sybil Av - \$217,000  
 15335 Washington Av #104 - \$144,000  
 16019 Windsor Dr - \$240,000  
 2405 Yaffe Dr - \$310,000

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 853 Jan Ct - \$215,000  
 708 Via Aires - \$218,000  
 1696 Via Buena Vista - \$237,000  
 1137 Via Coralla - \$275,000  
 17430 Via Julia - \$220,000  
 1755 Via Lobos - \$253,000  
 580 Via Pacheco - \$251,000  
 968 William Dr - \$335,000

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RICHMOND VIEW

# Survey

FROM PAGE B1

One finding that may heat up the competition among firms for top-selling agents is that it is the agent, not the brokerage itself, that draws the customer in — through personal contact, friendship, a referral, or an open house.

An even more important survey finding was that the public has embraced the idea of having an agent represent the buyer exclusively.

Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed said they had worked with a buyer's representative while purchasing a house, and 84 percent said they would want to work with a buyer's representative in the future.

Many state real estate commissions, including those in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, have had to change their regulations to sort through the altered relationships among buyers, sellers and real estate agents, but the benefits of such changes have far outweighed the angst.

"The practice of buyer representation has been beneficial for our industry because it provides practitioners with a legal backing they can show their clients to demonstrate that they can be trusted completely," said Sharon Millet, a Maine Realtor who was president of the trade association in 1999.

Of those who said they had worked with a buyer's representative, 71 percent said they had an excellent or very good experience buying a house, and 83 percent were

very satisfied with the salesperson's performance.

By comparison, 58 percent of those who didn't use a buyer's agent had an excellent or very good experience buying a house, and 67 percent were very satisfied with their salesperson's performance.

Hart-Riehle-Hartwig researchers said they found that buyer's representation was popular among home buyers because "it addresses a primary concern — trust."

"With unfamiliar terminology, a multitude of details to consider, and often the buyer's life savings at stake, purchasing a home can be a stressful event," the researchers said. "More than anything, buyers need someone to whom they can look for guidance, someone in whom they can be confident to help them make the right decisions."

That is why, researchers said, many salespeople are contacted through personal associations: "It gives buyers more confidence that they have chosen someone whom they can trust."

Many buyers, however, are uncomfortable working with a seller's representative, the researchers discovered. That is true especially in a situation where both the buyer's and seller's representatives work at the same firm and are not prevented from sharing confidential information — something that state agency laws have been designed to address.

In fact, three in five buyers believe it would be a major concern if salespeople and brokers at the brokerage firm did not operate with total confidentiality. And about half would have a major concern as a

seller under those circumstances.

This issue of "dual agency" — in which both agents work for the same broker — remains a sore point among consumer advocates.

Most of the buyers surveyed who worked with a buyer's representative understand that no other salesperson at the brokerage firm represents them. Two in three surveyed are comfortable with the arrangement, possibly because buyers choose a representative based on the individual and not the brokerage.

Of greater concern to the buyers surveyed was the lack of incentive for a buyer's representative to negotiate the best possible sales price. The buyer cares most about getting the lowest price, while the perception is that the salesperson is motivated to complete the transaction and be paid a commission based on the final sales price.

The buyers also believe that negotiation is the No. 1 service their agent can offer them.

The survey was designed to measure buyers' satisfaction with the process, as well as with the real estate agent who conducted the transaction.

The survey also tried to quantify the methods that buyers used to select an agent, and to determine the

relationship between buyers and agents that made the buyers most comfortable.

Ninety-six percent of the respondents had been the primary decision-makers in their home-buying purchases. When each bought a house, at least one real estate agent had been involved in the transaction.

Slightly fewer than half were first-time home buyers, while 26 percent were second-time buyers, and 28 percent had purchased more than two houses. About 60 percent of the houses the respondents purchased cost less than \$150,000.

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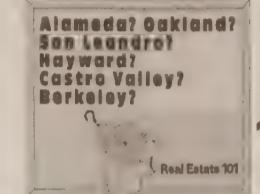
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Big

FROM PAGE B8

New York garment-industry executive about two days a week, Levine commutes more than an hour each way to New York. When he comes home to his new house, his garage can easily accommodate his two small utility vehicles. He is also looking forward to the special warming cover that will keep his supper warm when he works late. Next, when he wants to put a piano in his room, though the room other wise won't see much use. "Do I need it? I don't need one," he says.

Bridger accessories

For the same appearance reasons, the cabinets made up 23 percent of the wood-cabinet market in 1998, up from 15 percent four years ago, while use of more affordable materials has declined. And Broan-NuTone Group Inc., which sells home accessories, has seen a 50 percent increase in orders since 1998 for a line of Italian-crafted range hoods selling for \$100 to \$350,000. "They want a trove kitchen. They know they're not going to use it, but they want the look," says Karen Collins, a Broan spokeswoman.

Toll Brothers, based in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., has been in business for 20 years, but its high-end market began to soar in the 1990s. For the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, it sold 3,555 homes at an average price of more than \$400,000, up from 1,324 homes at an average price below \$300,000 in 1993. In recent years, it has piled on the amenities, such as double sinks or twin dishwashers. Master bathrooms often have two sinks and two toilets. It gives the first residents of a new neighborhood landscaping because so subsequent customers will be encouraged to upgrade as well.

Executives lately are studying options for a new line of empty-nester homes that, while smaller, can be just

Executives lately are studying options for a new line of empty-nester homes that, while smaller, can be just as lavishly accessorized, if not more so.

as lavishly accessorized, if not more so. "Will they pay for this?" Edward D. Weber, a vice president, asks one morning as he points to an optional bay window in one design. "Seniors throw money at them. No problem," says Jed Gibson, the company's director of architecture.

Fancy models

Toll Brothers decks out its model homes with its glitziest options in hopes that one will clinch a sale. It might be a 20-foot-tall closet or a circular driveway edging up to the front step. A favorite of Weber's: a second-floor master bedroom that opens into a walk-in closet with mirrored walls. At the other end of the closet is the bathroom, with a large bathtub below a window. The span from bedroom to tub is 72 feet, or about the length of the typical mobile home.

The builder has been able to make rooms bigger because stronger trusses have eliminated the need of most walls to act as supports. Though ceilings have crept up past 9 feet, better insulated walls and tighter windows have made heating and cooling the big spaces less costly.

In part to get around a chronic shortage of skilled labor, Toll Brothers makes the walls and ceilings in a factory and assembles them on-site. It builds its developments with the houses at varying distances from the street to avoid a symmetrical

cookie-cutter look. The company plants fatter, 3-year-old trees along its streets so they look more impressive than the saplings planted in other builders' neighborhoods.

In a 4,600-square-foot house here in Southlake, Antoine Jenkins is delighted that Toll Brothers keeps raising its prices, which he hopes will add value to the \$380,000, five-bedroom home he and his wife, Karen, bought this past fall. He believes the house, with its two staircases, big double doors and embedded alcoves for plants or statues, will do better at resale than his previous home, a smaller one in Manassas, Va.

Comfort first

But before investment value, Antoine Jenkins, 36, a human-resources executive at computer-services concern Sabre Holdings Corp., demanded comfort. He enjoys the fact that, because of the space and acoustics, he can't hear his three daughters running the water or flushing the toilet in another room. He loves the bathtub big enough for his stocky frame.

Most of all, he loves the den, which has the wall-size bookcase he ordered and a big window overlooking the back yard. "The study is where I'll put my humor and cigars, with the bottle of port on the side. There'll be a music system. When I come home, that's where Daddy goes," he says.

For the down payment, he rustled up \$40,000 from the sale of his shares in Nextel Communications Inc. and American Express Co., as well as shares of Microsoft he received when he worked for the software giant. But he realizes it might not last. A thus-far successful investor, Antoine Jenkins nevertheless lost money last year while playing stock options. But he isn't worrying.

"If it happens, it happens. I'm here today; who knows where I'll be tomorrow?" he says. "If you look for the downturn, you miss the good times. I'll get it now and I'll have no regrets later."

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6799 CHELTON DR. Dramatic architect-designed contemporary with 4BD/3+BA, soaring ceilings, gourmet kitchen, canyon views. Nancy Moore

### Open Sunday



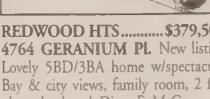
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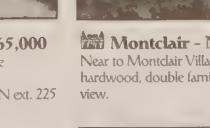
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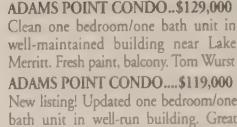
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Spacious 2BD/1BA condo in Heritage of Claremont bldg. Bay view, fireplace, garage, meticulously maintained, great location. Debi Fitterrell

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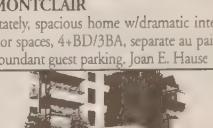
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Montclair - New Listing.....\$449,000

Near to Montclair Village. Very private on double lot. Quality hardwood, double family room. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Sweeping valley view.

HELEN NICHOLAS ext. 238



On A Clear Day You Can See Forever....\$150,000

Adams Point 2BD, 1BA condo just updated, fresh paint, new floor coverings, new kitchen appliances! San Francisco views! Community pool, just listed.

HELEN NICHOLAS ext. 238

.....\$499,000

HAL CASTLE ext. 220

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Selling

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every 24

hours.

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would

you

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to

move?

# YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES

OPEN SUNDAY \*

**ALAMEDA**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
346 Sweet Rd	48d/2 - Ba	2-4	\$699,000
Karin Ingemann, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4678			
2930 Gibbons	38d/2 - Ba	2-4	\$517,000
Rev & George Williams, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 522-1173			
2132 San Antonio	48d/3B	2-4-30	\$469,000
Stanley Ellis, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4713			
1138 Broadway	5d/2-Ba	2-4	\$450,000
3 units			
Sigine Nelson, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 521-0328			
615 San Rock Isle	38d/2Ba	2-4	\$435,000
Open Sat 1-3, Mark Playford (510) 814-4874			
San. Res. Grange 2-4, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4713			
1545 Santa Clara	38d/2B	2-4	\$389,500
Bill Douglas (510) 814-4839, Barbara Bolton, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4714			
1218 Silva Lane	48d/3Ba	2-4	\$359,000
Margaret Lamba, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4625			
312 MCDONNELL	2d/2-Ba	2-4	\$359,000
Maureen Shandoll, Kane & Associates (510) 521-3632			
1014 College	3 - 8d/2B	2-4	\$355,000
Connie Hanna, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4814			
3266 Fairview	2d/2-Ba	1-4	\$349,000
Bey & George Williams, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 522-1173			
2812 Marina Dr	2d/2B	2-4	\$335,000
Marilyn Oliver, Kane & Associates (510) 865-8656			
1114 Court	2d/2B	2-4	\$329,000
Mark & Diana Wyman, Kane & Associates (510) 522-5827			
2164 Alameda Ave	2d/2B	2-4	\$320,000
Elaine Miller, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4835			
1512 Fernside Blvd	2d/2-Ba	2-4	\$269,500
OPEN SAT & SUN			
Raye Thiemens, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1102			
2535 Lincoln Ave	2d/2B	2-4	\$259,000
Chapman Hulse, Kane & Associates (510) 521-8015			
2101 Shoreline Dr #206	2d/2B	2-4	\$245,500
Kathy Ghiselli, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 522-6425			
1805 Pacific	2d/2B	2-4	\$220,000
Lillian Silva, Kane & Associates (510) 865-8564			
2101 Shoreline #256	2d/2B	2-4	\$209,500
Darin Vinal, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4824			
645 Height	2d/1B	2-4	\$195,000
Dana Zook-Short, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4832			
960 Shorepoint #102	2d/2B	2-4	\$190,000
Elaine Miller, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4835			
853 Wood	2d/2B	2-4	\$189,000
Open Sat. & Sun			
Kathy Hirsch, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4706			
1321 Webster D1162	2d/2B	2-4	\$185,000
Gladys Farrell (510) 337-0697, Henrietta Zan (510) 865-6582			
325 Kitty Hawk Rd	2d/2B	2-4-30	\$170,000
Barbara K. Alameda Realty (510) 814-0808			

**BERKELEY**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1029 Amato	5d/2 - Ba	2-4-30	\$1,395,000
Berkeley Hills			
Dee & Joe Knowland, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460			
27 Tangwood	4 - 8d/4Ba	2-4-30	\$900,000
Clarendon			
Tricia Swift, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133 x140			
971 Euclid	48d/3Ba	2-4-30	\$645,000
Tricia Swift, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133 x140			
16 Indian Rock Path	48d/2Ba	2-4-30	\$649,000
STATELY MEDITERRANEAN			
EL. Miller, (524-3333 X354, Bayridge Realty & Financial			
935 Regal Rd.	38d/2Ba	2-4	\$429,000
NEW LISTING! Kathie Berg (510) 339-2930			
559-1444 X34, Marie Gardens R.E.			
2957 Pine	2d/1 - Ba	2-5	\$425,000
Elmwood			
Beth McHae, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133 x145			
940 Fresno	2 - 8d/1Ba	2-4	\$389,000
CLASSIC NORTH BERKELEY CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW			
Heidi & Jon Long, (510) 835-6218 Coldwell Banker Berkeley			
263 Colgate Ave	2 - 8d/1Ba	2-4	\$389,000
SPECTACULAR VIEW HOME, Saraya Red Oak Realty (510) 280-2162			
3010 Stanton St.	2d/2B	1-4	\$195,000
1920 BUNGALOW, Edna Red Oak Realty (510) 280-2112			

**EL CERRITO**

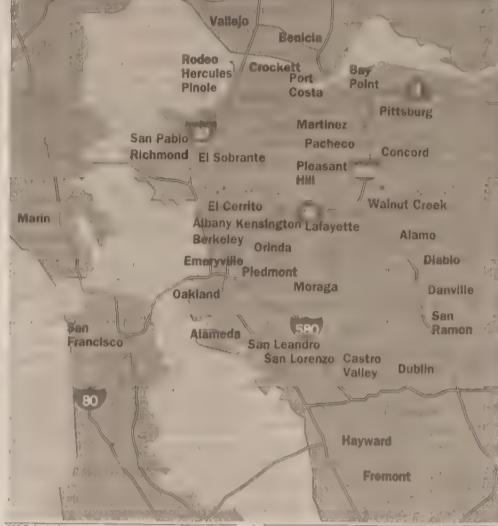
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1516 Madera Cir	38d/2Ba	2-4	\$369,950
Kate Delta Zoppa, Security Pacific, 510 662-8558			
840 Norwell St.	38d/1.5Ba	1-4	\$250,000
1516 Shoreline #206	2d/2B	2-4	\$245,500
Kathy Ghiselli, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 522-6425			
2101 Shoreline Dr #206	2d/2B	2-4	\$220,000
527-9111, 559-2905, Marvin Gardens R.E.			
NEW LISTING! Darrell Hock (510) 814-4824			
835 Arlington	48d/1Ba	2-4	\$189,000
Gen. Stern, Security Pacific, 510 662-8469			

**EMERYVILLE**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1284 61st St.	2 units	2-4	\$-
DUPLEX, Saray Red Oak Realty (510) 280-2105			
325 Kitty Hawk Rd	2d/2B	2-4-30	\$170,000
Barbara K. Alameda Realty (510) 814-0808			

**KENSINGTON**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5917 Contra Costa Rd	48d/3 - Ba	2-4-30	\$946,000
Debbie Demaggio, The Grub Co. (510) 339-6460			

**EL CERRITO**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
263 Colgate Ave	2 - 8d/1Ba	2-4	\$359,000
SPECTACULAR VIEW HOME, Saraya Red Oak Realty (510) 280-2162			
4818 Lawton Ave	3d/1Ba	Sun. 2-5	\$285,000
Michael Vala, 510-451-7317.			

**MORAGA**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6151 Swainland Rd	3 - 8d/2Ba	2-4-30	\$925,000
Montclair			
Kate Phillips, Wells & Bennett (510) 436-4100			
4309 Terrabella Way	48d/3Ba	2-4	\$875,000
Redwood Estates Homes-Unit Team, (510) 748-5300			

**OAKLAND**

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6042 Manchester Dr.	48d/3Ba	2-4-30	\$1,998,000
Upper Rockridge			
dee & Joe Knowland, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460			
5917 Ruthland	5d/2Ba	2-4-30	\$759,000
Montclair			

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# Home & Business Services

## Services

California Contractor's License State Law requires all licensed contractors to include their license number in any advertisement. In addition, any advertising performance work at a charge of \$300 or more is required, by the State of California, to be licensed. For more information, contact the Contractor's State License Board at: (800) 321-2752 or (916) 255-3900.

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#7005, 925-447-2446

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Free design, plan, 20 yr. exp.  
#415587 (925) 296-0110

**ARH CONSTRUCTION**  
& Remod. 30 yrs. exp.  
#731736

**BATH/kit, cust. tiling, finish**  
carpentry, comm. work  
#763898 925-693-9431

**QUALITY Work**  
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homes. Mirimar Const. Lic  
#757594 (925) 296-1111

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# Home & Business Services



Hauling



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## FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



MONTCLAIR BETTER HOMES

## 6007 MAJESTIC AVE., OAKLAND.

John Hudson Thomas, a noted architect associated with Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan, designed this unique First Bay Tradition cottage in 1927 for Georgiana Melvin and Ella Bourne, then of Mills College.

Bourne was head of the classics department; Melvin chaired the philosophy department.

Most Mills department heads lived on "the hill," a bohemian enclave above the college; the college president lived below, on Laird Avenue.

The cottage is nestled in the Oakland hills and enjoys substantial privacy. Surrounded by extensive landscaping featuring a gentle waterfall, decks on two sides and a hot tub, the cottage provides a refuge from the bustle of urban life.

Interior architecture, based on a generous and site-specific floor plan, complements the exterior charm: Multiple windows in each room overlook gardens and yield a bounty of natural light throughout the day.

The home is a work of art with French doors, exposed beams, a cathedral living room ceiling, a steeply-pitched seven-gable roof, stained glass windows, trellises and hardwood floors.

For more information, call Patricia Bennett, Montclair Better Homes Realty, at 510-339-8400.

# WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

531-7000

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.



**6151 SWAINLAND RD.....\$925,000**

Panoramic three bridge, S.F. view. Two-year Old Spanish three plus bedrooms, two and a half baths. Formal living, dining rooms. Master suite with frpl. Gourmet kitchen, airy verandas, beautiful custom details. Kate Phillips 436-4100



**1927 GASPAR DRIVE.....\$369,000**

1ST Open Pride of Ownership! Desirable, bright and cheerful 3BR/2BA home in the heart of Montclair. Tranquil setting with woodsy view. Marble entry, fireplace, decks, and more. Close to village. Heidi Tugge 531-4544



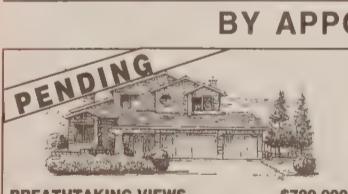
**6811 AITKEN.....\$380,000**

Upgraded '60s Modern. Walls of glass out to peaceful wooded view. Close-in location, 3BR/2BA. Convenient to Montclair Village, Hill Area Public Schools, Redwood Park, and Hills Club. Peter & Ellen Nicopoulos 339-9780



**3874 HANLY ROAD.....\$269,000**

1ST Open 3 Bedroom 2 bath fixer in desirable Oakmore neighborhood. Formal dining, eat in kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors. Plus room downstairs. Side & rear patios. Nancy Novick ext. 254



**BREATHTAKING VIEWS.....\$789,000**

4BR/3BA incl. spacious master suite, low maintenance yd, 3 car gar., over 3200 sq. ft. Chris Christensen ext. 283

**PILL HILL VICTORIAN.....\$269,000**

Duplex with room to grow. Medical office potential. Needs some work. Anne Bruff 531-7006 ext. 283

**STUNNING PANORAMIC VIEWS.....\$230,000**

Of the Bay and SF. Double size, down-slope lot with utilities present. Area of expensive newly constructed homes, one of a kind lot. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**MARV LOT W/CANYON & NO. BAY VIEW!....\$199,000**

Level in down-slope in excess of 10,000 sq. ft. neighboring homes \$600-800K. Soils reports ava. Pls call for more info. Carol Robbiano ext. 292

BY APPOINTMENT

**FIXER VICTORIAN.....\$215,000**

3+BD/2BA Single family home lots of square footage. Little run down w/ lots of potential. Neighborhood of \$300K sales. Currently used as duplex. PCR \$28,400. "As-Is" asking price. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**REMODELED 2-STORY.....\$185,000**

2BD/1+BA, LR, DR, full bsmr. Newer foundation, new pt, cpt & vinyl. Fenced rear yd, electric gate entrance. \$118 mo. HOA dues. A Must See! Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**VALUE NEAR MILLS COLLEGE.....\$138,500**

Maxwell Park charming 1920's Bungalow. 2BD/1BA, LR w/built-in book cabinets around frpl. Huge eat-in kit. Large fenced yard, One-car garage. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**CONVENIENT CONDO.....\$85,800**

No frills one BD. Walk to Lake, Courthouse & Laney. Close to Civic Ctr, BART and Chinatown. Hilda Noveto ext. 246

LAND

**2 MEDIUM UPSLOPE LOTS W/BAY VIEW.....\$110,000**

Two side by side Bayview lots. This is a great price. Take advantage of it to build a home to live in & one to sell. Please call for information. Carol Robbiano ext. 292

**MONTCLAIR DOWNSLOPE.....\$84,000**

Fully developed neighborhood. Lovely views of Shepherd Canyon. Homes in area have sold in excess of \$600K. All utilities ava. Incl. recent survey. Mary Neuberger ext. 251

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND

• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2453 • VACATION RENTALS 514-8181  
• WALNUT CREEK (925) 838-8888

<http://www.wellsandbennett.com>

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## PROFESSIONALS ON THE MOVE

**Two join Prudential in El Sobrante**

Callie Major and Chriss Bradley have joined the El Sobrante office of Prudential California Realty, announced Ray Smith, owner of the office. Major has been a real estate agent for nearly 10 years, has been a member of the Million Dollar Club for six years and is a Notary Public.

A long-time resident of El Cerrito, she was a social worker in San Francisco before becoming an agent. She feels that working with people is a rewarding and enjoyable experience and she brings a high degree of professionalism and caring to the office. Call 510-758-5637.

Bradley is a licensed broker and has been in real estate for eight

years. She has been a Million Dollar Club member since her first year in real estate. A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, she has extensive knowledge of the neighborhoods she serves. Call 510-758-5637 or [www.chrissbradley.com](http://www.chrissbradley.com).

**Richmond's Abbass 'Realtor of the Year'**

Magany Abbass of Security Pacific Real Estate, has been named 1999 Realtor of the Year by the West Contra Costa Association of Realtors. The award is given in recognition of outstanding service and contributions to the real estate profession. Last year, Abbass chaired the education committee for the association. In November, she led a real estate

business delegation to the East and France under the auspices of the People to People Anti-Programs, a branch of the D. Eisenhower Foundation.

Abbass's real estate career nearly 20 years, 10 of them with Security Pacific Real Estate. She is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Law in Walnut Creek, a member of the Contra Costa Association. Said Jack Burns, president of Security Pacific, "Magany definitely earned this award, we are proud to have her on our team."

E-mail submissions for Professionals on the Move to [jsmayden@sfy.net](mailto:jsmayden@sfy.net) or [www.times.com](http://www.times.com).



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# SPORTS

VJ

Friday, February 4, 2000

Section C

**Arts** Combination of old and new makes for exhilarating concert [C3]

**Inside** Local events and meetings in Community Calendar [C5]

## Milbrett courts soccer fans

Area fans get a kick out of meeting U.S. women's team star at Mills College

By Mike McGreehan

For many Americans, the defining moment of last summer's Women's World Cup came at the end of the championship final when, after two hours in the Southern California sun at the Rose Bowl, Brandi Chastain whipped off her shirt to celebrate her winning penalty kick.

Lost in the euphoria was the fact that the U.S. players would have had to content themselves with silver medals had Kristine Lilly not gotten in the way of a sure Chinese goal in the second overtime.

Tiffeny Milbrett was on the field for the U.S. national team in Pasadena that day, and remembers the scene well. "I'm at one post and I see Bri (U.S. goalie Brianna Scurry) reaching for it — and it's behind her," said Milbrett, recalling the game-saving moment during an appearance at Mills College last Thursday. "I thought, 'OK, we're second.' But all of a sudden, Lil, her little face pops out. (Lilly heads the ball) about six yards (in front of the goal). Then Brandi Chastain does this flying scissors karate kick that I've never seen her do and the ball goes about 60 yards (up the field)."

Milbrett discussed that play and other soccer-related topics during an hour-long

question-and-answer session at Mills' concert hall. The free event was a treat for those in attendance. At a time when many athletes routinely alienate fans, Milbrett was a breath of fresh air.

"A lot of people thank us, but we're really grateful to you guys, the fans," said Milbrett, who plays forward. "We can't do this without you. We're your team for crimin' sakes. You don't know how much we respect you."

The U.S. women's national team has thrilled multitudes of fans in recent years. And the fans have shown their appreciation.

In addition to last year's World Cup victory, the U.S. women won the inaugural World Cup in 1991 and finished third four years later. They also won the first gold medal for women's soccer at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and are looking to duplicate that feat this year in Sydney.

Along the way, the team has also drawn record crowds for women's soccer, first at the Atlanta Olympics, then at last year's World Cup.

"Life changed after July 10," said Milbrett, referring to the day the United States played China for the championship. "Life, hopefully, will never be the same again. People ask me why we're in



JOANNA JHANOA

TIFFENY MILBRETT signs autographs for adoring fans at Mills College.

everyone's hearts and households. My little joke is that the planets were aligned right and the stars were aligned right."

The 1999 Women's World Cup didn't enjoy the same build-up afforded the men for their quadrennial World Cup in

France the year before. But the tournament seemed to generate interest as it progressed. By the time the tournament ended, the U.S. team had inspired a nation.

"It wasn't about women's soccer, it was

about women's everything," said Milbrett. "It crossed all ages — and all genders. We have as many male fans as we do female fans. Maybe it's the 'babe factor'."

See MILBRETT, Page C2

## Albany can't fell Alhambra

Close match ends Cougar wrestlers' winning streak

By Kurt Kloeben

For two teams who haven't been in this position for a while, it certainly looked as though they belonged.

The Alhambra and Albany high school wrestling teams waged a war in a converted garage at Albany, with Alhambra coming out on top 35-25.

The win puts the Bulldogs in a first-place tie in the Tri-County Athletic League with Freedom at 4-0. Albany dropped to 3-1 but got a shot at Freedom on Thursday.

The Alhambra match was filled with emotion from wire-to-wire. The Alhambra fans had water bottles filled with rocks, and some of the Cougars fans banged on the garage door at the edge of the large room.

"This is what you like to see," Alhambra coach Scott Osterholt said. "This was just an exciting wrestling match, for the fans, the coaches and the wrestlers."

But what it came down to was two evenly matched teams. Perhaps the biggest matches of the night came early at the 114- and 121-pound divisions, where the Bulldogs got pins.

After Albany's David Yeaman scored an early 12-4 victory over Brandon Dagg at 105 pounds, the Bulldogs' Joe Cruz (114) and Chris Calasanese (121) earned first-round pins to put Alhambra up 12-4.

Albany spent the rest of the night digging itself out of a hole.

Two overtime matches keyed the wrestlers and crowd, which spilled out of the room, even more.

### OT match

Alhambra's Jarad Negerbon edged Albany's Kamran Javandeh 9-8 in double overtime of the 173-pound match to seal the win.

Javandeh looked as though he would take the match with a reversal with eight seconds remaining, but Negerbon got an escape right before the buzzer to send the match into overtime.

See COUGARS, Page C2



STEVE MASLANKA  
PARKER ROBINSON, a 125-pounder from Berkeley High, grapples with an opponent during the Albany Wrestling Tournament earlier this season.

## Berkeley wrestlers shine in tournaments

Jackets have good mix of grapplers

By Mike McGreehan

When talk turns to Berkeley High School wrestling, many of the statistics, results and accomplishments really catch the eye.

In December for instance, Christie Rivera won the North Coast Section tournament for girls. Currently, she ranks sixth in the country among girls at 145 pounds.

Teammate Toshia Cristal holds the number three spot in the nation for girls at 160 pounds.

But that isn't all. Among the boys, Marcus Glass placed sixth in the NCS last year at 145 pounds. This year, Glass has dropped to 140 pounds and is doing well with a pair of first-place finishes and three seconds in tournament competition.

Given these accomplishments, one would expect the Yellowjackets to have a good team. Well, yes and no. Yes,

Berkeley has some quality wrestlers and some promising talent on the rise. But it doesn't have much depth. Berkeley was 1-2 in East Bay Athletic League dual meets heading into Thursday's match with Foothill in Pleasanton.

Dual meets are just one aspect of a season. Berkeley has really shined in other areas.

"Our tournament results haven't been too bad," says coach Brad Itokazu. "The kids up there are varsity are not too bad."

Last Saturday, for instance, the Yellowjackets traveled to Concord to compete in the Clayton Valley Varsity Tournament. Despite having no first-place winners in any weight class, Berkeley wrestled well enough to capture sixth place out of 28 teams.

Berkeley took nine wrestlers — seven varsity and two junior varsity — and all of them medaled.

Glass had three pins and ultimately

See WRESTLERS, Page C2

## BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

## Jackets hit bombs to down Grizzlies

Staff report

Whenever the Berkeley High School boys basketball team needed a big 3-point basket last Friday night against California, it got it — even from its center.

The Yellowjackets needed every one of their six 3-pointers, including two from center Jason Holman, to hold off the scrappy Grizzlies 59-53 in an East Bay Athletic League game at Donahue Gym in Berkeley.

Berkeley (16-4, 6-1 EBAL) before its game against San Ramon Valley on Wednesday never trailed and was up by 15 points late in the third quarter, but the Grizzlies managed to claw back several times, closing to 50-45 with four minutes left in the game.

But Berkeley's Austin Nichols hit a 3-pointer to make the score 53-45, and teammate David Doubly hit another 3-pointer a minute later to give the Yellowjackets a nine-point lead (56-47) they sustained until the final seconds.

Berkeley went up 28-21 at intermission, but the Grizzlies closed to 30-25 two minutes into the third quarter. That's when Holman, who stands about 6-foot-6, stepped back and nailed a 22-footer. After a California basket, Holman drained another 3-pointer to start a Berkeley run that resulted in the 15-point lead.

"I don't think they expected it, because I'm a big man," Holman said. "But I shoot from out there all the time. I try to hit at least two (3-pointers) a game."

The Yellowjackets, it seemed, probably would have found another way to win. Doubly scored 11 points, but it was an "off night" for him, Yellowjackets coach Stelton Mitchell said. Nichols (18 points) and Ronald Curtis (17 points), however, picked up the slack, as did Holman.

El Cerrito 67, Encinal 63

Senior forward Jamal Hill recorded the region's second-best offensive outing of the season, scoring 42 points on 19

See JACKETS, Page C2

## SOCCER ROUNDUP

## Prep teams prepare for upcoming playoffs

Staff report

winning goal in the last minute of play.

### Girls soccer

Salesian 2, St. Mary's 0

St. Mary's (4-9-1, 3-6-1) ran into second-place Salesian High (12-2, 8-1 ACAL), which got a goal in each half to record a 2-0 win.

Niki D'Alonzo scored in the 28th minute, and Bianca Campos scored in the 50th minute. Goalie Chrissy Chavez had eight saves for St. Mary's. Erin Logan had four for Salesian.

### Boys soccer

De Anza 3, El Cerrito 3

Matthew Kucera scored in the first

See SOCCER, Page C2

## Jackets

FROM PAGE C1

field goals to spark El Cerrito (14-7, 5-1) to a 67-63 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League win over Encinal (11-7, 2-4).

Campolindo senior forward Nick Enzweiler scored 47 points in a 62-49 win over Alhambra earlier this month.

El Cerrito takes on Salesian tonight at 7 p.m. at home. St. Mary's come to El Cerrito on Tuesday, also at 7 p.m.

### St. Mary's 111, Richmond 60

The Panthers (18-4, 7-0 league) scored 41 points in the first quarter on the way to a blowout of Richmond, five players scored in double figures, led by James Harris' 21 points. Ebon Glenn had 14, Deshawn Freeman 13, Kellen Dixon 12 and John Sharper 10.

### St. Mary's 69, Salesian 58

St. Mary's used a 14-4 run at the start of the fourth quarter to blow open a close game and beat Salesian 69-58 on Jan. 26.

The Panthers went on to beat St. Elizabeth 77-42 last Friday to gain the upper hand in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League Powerhouse Division race.

St. Mary's scored the first eight points of the final quarter against Salesian, with two steals by Freeman and two buckets by Chase Moore fueling the run.

Freeman and Harris helped contain Salesian senior standout Marcus Richardson, who scored 16 first-half points but had only two in the second half until the final 30 seconds, when he hit two meaningless 3-pointers. Richardson led all scorers with 24 points.

"Our coach told us to pressure the ball until we get the steal," said Freeman, a senior guard for St. Mary's. "What got us the game were the steals. We pressured the ball and they folded."

Freeman finished with 11 steals as the St. Mary's defense overwhelmed Salesian.

Senior center Victor Venters was the main beneficiary of the Panthers' strong defensive effort, scoring 17 points, mostly on easy shots in the paint. Dixon finished with 12 points. Venters and Dixon combined for 16 rebounds. Glenn scored eight points in the first half for the Panthers.

### Albany 52, Kennedy 50

Andrew Hara scored 18 points and had six rebounds to lead Albany (10-11, 2-4 ACCAL) to a 52-50 win over Kennedy (6-14, 2-4) in Alameda last Friday. Deandre Thompson paced the Eagles with 15 points.

The Cougar boys host St. Joseph on tonight at 7 and St. Elizabeth Tuesday, also at 7 p.m.

### Girls

### Kennedy 67, Albany 25

Sophomore center Deidra Chatman scored 14 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had seven blocks to

## Soccer

FROM PAGE C1

half on an assist from James McDermott and got two more from Luis Garcia in the second half to give El Cerrito (6-8-4, 3-4-4 league) a 3-3 tie with De Anza on Tuesday. McDermott assisted on Garcia's first goal and Daniel Panglina assisted on his second goal in the 80th minute to salvage the tie.

### El Cerrito 3, Albany 2

Panglina scored on a free kick at the end of regulation for a comeback 2-1 win over Albany Tuesday in El Cerrito.

The Gauchos got on the board first on a goal by Dan Margarit assisted by Luis Garcia 18 minutes into the first half, but the Cougars (5-3-2, 5-3-2 league) got unassisted goals from Regin Nanygal and Garrett Polk to take a 2-1 lead into the half.

El Cerrito's Jorge Parades tied the game 12 minutes into the second half on an assist from James McDermott. The game looked like it would end in a tie until Panglina's goal.

Mark Richardson recorded seven saves for the Gauchos.

### El Cerrito 2, Alameda 2

El Cerrito and Alameda scored early but had little success for much of the second half as they finished with a 2-2 tie in Alameda.

James McDermott scored in the sixth minute to start the scoring for the Gauchos. Jorge Parades added a goal in the 29th minute for El Cerrito.

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# Arts

## Combination of old and new makes for exhilarating concert

By Georgia Rowe

As the music director of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, Michael Morgan often introduces audiences to new works. He's also said that he's happiest when he's conducting Mozart. Friday evening at the Paramount Theatre, he got to do both.

Launching his 10th season with the orchestra, the Oakland hills resident led a varied program featuring Mozart's Symphony No. 41 in C Major, K. 551 "Jupiter," and the world premiere of Peter Knell's "Fanfares and Fantasies."

Also included were Dvorak's Symphonic Variations, Op. 78, and Samuel Barber's "Knoxville: Summer of 1915," Op. 24, featuring soprano Cynthia Clayton.

The program, the first of five in the orchestra's 2000 season, neatly encapsulates Morgan's approach.

### CONCERT REVIEW

■ WHAT: The Oakland East Bay Symphony performs works by Mozart, Dvorak, Barber and Peter Knell

■ WHERE: Paramount Theatre, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda

■ WHEN: 8 p.m. Feb. 3

■ HOW MUCH: \$15-\$45

The conductor is firmly grounded in the classical and Romantic repertoires, unapologetically enamored of 20th century American music, skilled in directing vocal performance and bold in commissioning and performing new works.

Those diverse threads came together Friday in a performance that

was always energetic, often assured and occasionally transcendent. The program repeats Thursday at Alameda's Kofman Theatre.

Morgan is a frequent conductor of Mozart — both with Oakland East Bay Symphony and with Walnut Creek's Festival Opera — and he always seems buoyed by the composer's music. Friday, he imparted the "Jupiter" symphony with an elegant sense of spontaneity, from the delicately etched details of the opening movement to the pathos of the Andante. The third act Minuet, with its exquisite dialogues for strings and woodwinds, was taken in graceful strides. The bright, uplifting finale was nothing short of exhilarating.

Still, Morgan elicited the evening's most unified performance in Dvorak's variations, which run the gamut from tranquil to turbulent. There are 27 in all, and each emerged with clarity and definition

under his baton. The final fugue was played with considerable allure. "Knoxville," despite a beautifully floated vocal line by Clayton, never quite reached the same heights.

Barber's wistful setting of James Agee's text — a child's eye view of his loved ones on a summer's eve in a small Southern town — was played with particularity to vocal music. Soloist and orchestra often seemed at odds, and Clayton intermittently lapsed into inaudibility.

Knell's 11-minute piece, which begins with a brash fanfare for horns and percussion, alternates episodes of orchestral reverie with big brass effects, culminating with a zesty triple fugue and an urgent final fanfare.

With Morgan leading a committed performance, it started the evening on a celebratory note.

## HOT SHEET!

■ "My One Good Nerve," an acclaimed one-woman show starring Ruby Dee, will be performed March 1-5 at Oakland Ensemble Theatre, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. Dee, who began her career with the American Negro Theatre in Harlem, is best known for her stage performances in "Raisin in the Sun" and "Purle Victorious." Call 510-763-7774.

■ "Changing of the Guard: New British Cinema," a series of independent movies that characterize a new movement in British film, will be shown Feb. 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 26 and 27 at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. Call 510-642-1412.

## EVENTS



JOHN KAIZAN NEPTUNE performs with The Murasaki Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 20, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Cost \$10 or \$13 at the door. Call 1-800-225-BASS.



ASHLEY JUDD plays a cunning criminal in a film that defies logic.

### REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Eye of the Beholder"

■ STARRING: Ashley Judd, Ewan McGregor, Patrick Bergin, k.d. lang, Jason Priestley, Genevieve Bujold

■ RATING: R (nudity, drug use, shocking violence and raw language)

Jimmy Stewart, and the characters have nowhere near the humanity that the ones played by Stewart, Grace Kelly and Thelma Ritter did.

When a cold-blooded killer is the warmest person in a movie, as is the case in "Eye," it's hard to care about what happens to the people. So, for-

See EYE, Page C4

## Oakland filmmakers win big at Sundance Film Festival

By Karen Hershenson

PARK CITY, UTAH

Two Bay Area documentaries won important awards as the Sundance Film Festival drew to a close last weekend.

"Long Night's Journey Into Day," a film about post-apartheid healing, landed the documentary Grand Jury Prize at a ceremony Saturday night. Directors Frances Reid ("Skin Deep")

and Deborah Hoffmann ("Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter") live in Oakland.

San Franciscans Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman ("The Celluloid Closet") won the Directing Award for their "Paragraph 175," about Nazi persecution of homosexuals.

The Dramatic Grand Jury Prize was split between Karyn Kusama's female-boxing movie "Girlfight" (which also won a Directing Award) and "You Can Count on Me," about

the complex relationship between orphaned siblings. The director and screenwriter, Kenneth Lonergan, also won the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award.

Festival founder Robert Redford was missing from the festivities for the second year in a row. But prankster director Kevin Smith ("Clerks," "Dogma") read what he claimed was a letter from The Man.

"Wasn't I way better than Dustin Hoffman in 'All the President's

Men?'" it supposedly said. "I rocked hard."

Smith also claimed that he and fellow jurors had to resort to a "shirts and skins cage match" in order to make a decision. "In the end, it was just me and (Janet) Maslin," he said, referring to the former New York Times film critic. "She can fight like a longshoreman."

The evening's big winner was

See SUNDANCE, Page C4

NBA All-Star Jam Session — Feb. 7-Feb. 13. The ultimate interactive basketball experience where fans can slam dunk, launch a jump shot from a trampoline, play bungee basketball, shoot baskets with a slingshot, record their own fantasy play by play, make their own trading card, test their trivia skills, and experience the latest in multimedia electronic basketball games. Also featuring trading card and collectibles area, player and celebrity autograph sessions, and skills clinics with NBA and college coaches.

Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 children and seniors, free children age 2 and under. Monday and Tuesday, 4-9 p.m.; Wednesday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Oakland Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. Call 888-GSW-HOOPS or 510-762-BASS.

White Elephant Sale Preview — Feb. 6, 1-5 p.m. An opportunity to shop early for the best selection at this world-famous sale of absolutely everything. The sale opens to the general public on March 4 and March 5. Admission: \$15. 333 Lancaster St., Oakland. Call 888-OAK-MUSE.

The Reds are Back in Berkeley, Fife Vineyards Winemaker Dinner — Feb. 10, 7 p.m. The evening includes a five-course menu, with each course paired with the ideal Fife red wine. In attendance will be winemaker Dennis Fife and wine columnist Karen MacNeil of *Sunset Magazine*. Reservations required. Tickets: \$65 per person. Santa Fe Bar and Grill, 1310 University Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-841-1110.

Tango 2000 — Feb. 11, 7 p.m. The Oakland Ballet Gala Committee sponsors The Ballet Ball: Apres Saison. The evening includes dinner, dancing and entertainment. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Ballet. Tickets: \$200 per person general, \$100 per person for under age 35. The Claremont Hotel, 41 Tunnel Road, Oakland. Call 510-452-9288.

The Golden Gate Geographic Society 2000 Travel Film Mini-Series — "Greece and Its Islands"! A film focusing on Athens, Delphi, the Peloponnesus, Meteora, Mt. Olympus and Macedonia, and the islands of Paros, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. Produced and presented in person by Grant Foster. Feb. 12, 2 p.m., at Paramount Theatre, 205 Broadway, Oakland. Tickets: \$9. Call 800-247-GGGS.

See EVENTS, Page C4



THE MURASAKI ENSEMBLE (l-r) Alex Baum, Matt Eakle, Shirley Muramoto, Vince Delgado and Jeff Massanari, performs on Sunday, Feb. 20, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts in Berkeley. Cost \$10 or \$13 at the door. Call 1-800-225-BASS.

See MANN, Page C4

# Return awards show to its Bay Area roots

Let's reclaim the Bammies from the Los Angeles music industry

By Tony Hicks

It's time to put a symbolic bullet in the statewide Bammies.

Drop the blade on the guillotine; take it to the award-show vet and put the whole thing to sleep. Either that or let's build a giant, ugly soundwall across Interstate 5 at Los Banos and keep out the invading SoCals.

Technically, the Bammies become the Tower Records California Music Awards this year. It marks the beginning of the end of the name "Bammies," though organizers still refer to it as the 23rd annual Bammies in press releases.

#### Celebrating our own

BAM once stood for "Bay Area Music." The Bammies — an extension of BAM magazine until the publication gave up the ghost last

June — were the exclusive domain of Bay Area musicians until a couple of years ago, when somebody apparently decided that watching Neal Schon and Craig Chaquico slug it out for best guitarist every year had gotten stale.

OK, it had gotten stale. But that's not the point.

From 1997 until 1997, the Bammies honored only Bay Area musicians in a fun-filled gala that evolved into little more than an excuse for a big annual party. While the cast rarely changed from year to year (Eddie Money needed to get out of the house at least once in a while), it was a way for Bay Area musicians to take the roll of its success stories.

It showed younger bands there was something to shoot for — that despite the lack of a record-company presence in the Bay Area, you could beat the odds and make it here. Awards had as much to do with accomplishments as thanking a few famous people for telling the world they were proud to be from Bel-Air?

Things changed in 1998 when Pleasant Hill-based BAM ex-

panded the eligibility, throwing open the door to SoCal bands. Suddenly Courtney Love and Marilyn Manson are getting nominated for Bammies.

Huh?

All you have to do is live in the state sometime during the year to be eligible. Of course, SoCal bands have the advantage in head-to-head competition with NorCal bands, simply because the music industry is in Los Angeles. That means bands from all over the world "live" there once they get a record deal and get famous.

In fairness, Bay Area acts such as Metallica, Smash Mouth, Carlos Santana, Tom Waits, Third Eye Blind and the Donnas are nominated for this year's awards, to be held April 8 at San Francisco's Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

But this year's nominees also include Fiona Apple, Beck, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cher, Master P and ... Will Smith?! Isn't he the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air?

#### Back to basics

Yes, it's the California Music Awards now. Excuse me, the

Tower Records California Music Awards (we wouldn't want to cheat a corporation out of even a blurb of exposure). That's almost as nauseating as making the foul pole at the Oakland Coliseum look like a pencil, then splashing on the logo of an office supply company.

If we want to keep calling them the Bammies — which we should, even if BAM is dead — we should at least bring back the locals-only tradition in some form.

BAM started out in Northern California a couple of decades ago as a cool freebie with gobs of information on local music, plus a few decently written stories on national acts.

For a time, BAM was like the

Bay Area's musical town square, where one could venture to find out what was happening. Lots of cheaply produced nameless competitors came and went, featuring horrid attempts at writing and photo-taking to justify selling a few ads. But BAM was usually pretty solid.

Furthering the notion of a Bay Area musical community — whether it really existed at times or not — BAM editor in chief Dennis Erokan created the Bammies, recognizing the area's best without discriminating against the biggest arena acts or the lowest garage bands (provided they could work up a following).

The ironic thing is that, once

decade that there was a lot of fresh Bay Area talent to be found, the Bammies to NorCal, came a slew of NorCal acts, including Green Day, Third Eye Blind, Rancid, Smash Mouth, Counting Crows and Dan Reznor, who now reigns as the king of heavy metal band on the planet.

Say what you will about the Area music scene — or lack thereof. It still deserves recognition.

Give L.A. bands their own money in Hollywood. Call it the Jammies. Call it the Jam. All I care. Just give us something specific to Northern California.

## Mann

FROM PAGE C3

glazing over.) Our leader has spoken ... we must obey. We will pull out of the stock market forthwith.

Let us refer here today to our leader only as "Rob Stinker." Stinker hath brought us through the valley of financial ignorance to the promised land, The Longest Bull Market Ever. We have made many shekels. We have prospered. We rejoice.

We've always been given the impression that the all-powerful Stinker is largely responsible for this bull market because of his pre-science — he's always been full of bull. And Lord Stinker, after all, is the possessor of the Holy Relic, the sacred, superscientific "Timing Model," which must be obeyed. It says it's time to get out of the market. Lord Stinker says we need to keep our powder dry. We, the great unwashed who do not even know what a beta coefficient is, must do what he says. After all, it was He who made us all the money, wasn't it? And are we smart enough to have our own national radio show with advertisers like Gold Bond Medicated powder? I think not.

Our Divine Leader calls himself an "investment educator" although, incongruously, he likes to call his radio show, during which he issues pronouncements on everything from the NFL to Bill Clinton's character to the natural beauty of Ocala, Fla., a "Starship."

Plus, our Leader plays spacey music on his show's bumpers coming out of commercial breaks. So maybe he has been sent from another planet to give us sound investment advice.

And although our Leader, the Investment Educator, has never explained to us, his followers, why so many top investment pros consider market timing a bonehead idea, we will not question The Exalted One. After all, Sri Stinker reads Barron's every week. Have YOU ever tried reading Barron's? This takes special powers indeed. So I must follow; I will put 75 percent of my portfolio in money-market funds forthwith. It is but a simple act of devotion to the Wise One.

Our Leader will brook no criticism. The few times his acolytes (sometimes called "call screeners") have let negative energy sully his exalted airwaves, Lord Stinker hath responded with wrath. Stinker's stocks never go down, and if they do, it is an article of faith that it is never his fault. He is omniscient.

When he asks novitiates their net worth during his weekly radio sermons, they cringe in fear before his majesty. When Our Leader asks why callers have 70 percent of their portfolios in one stock, his tone is one of disapproval tempered with condescension. We who have shown him fealty for so these past years do not wish his disapproval. So we will sell.

The Holy Relic, the Timing Model, has spoken; the tablets of

gold will be displayed on CNBC. Financial faith is a miraculous thing. The Timing Model also says it's time to rotate my tires. I...will...obey.

**Big Vinny Speaks:** Oaklander Rich Lieberman says he's not giving up his day job — as a salesman at Broadway Ford — just because of all his — he hopes — impending fame from all those new Round Table Pizza commercials in which he stars as Big Vinny. Big Vinny lives at the top of a hill. He even has his face on his door knocker, and he loves the new Big Vinny pizza. The suitably stocky Lieberman, who turns 38 next week, has just joined the Screen Actors' Guild. But he still doesn't get a price break on Round Table pizzas. Not yet.

"The reaction to the spots has been amazing," the local media giddily gushes about the TV campaign that started on the Super Bowl pre-game show. "I've even had a fourth-grade class in El Sobrante ask me to speak to them." I then ask Lieberman what a "kaboom" is. That's the word he uses dismissively in the commercial — the first of five he's filmed — to wave a pizza-delivery kid away.

"I don't know," he shrugs. "It's just a word they made up." He says his Big Vinny even has his own Web page on Round Table's Web site. Too bad Lieberman doesn't own a computer.

Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at [Newsmann@aol.com](mailto:Newsmann@aol.com)

## Events

FROM PAGE C3

**Gaia Bookstore** — Susheel Bibbs, Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m. The author discusses the book "Heritage of Power."

**Virginia Beane Rutter**, Feb. 5, 4 p.m. The author discusses her book, "Embracing Persephone: How to be the Mother You Want for the Daughter You Cherish."

**Analisa Cunningham**, Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m. The author discusses her book, "Yoga Vacations."

**Victoria Cass**, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m. The author discusses her book, "Dangerous Women Warriors, Grannies, and Geishas."

**SPECIAL EVENT** — "ReTurning to the Mother of Us All: A Ritual Concert," Feb. 6, 7 p.m. A performance featuring Jennifer Berezin and others. At the Scottish Rite Temple, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Cost: \$25. 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-848-GAIA or 510-548-4172.

**Oakland Public Library** — GOLDEN GATE BRANCH — "Celebration of African-American History Month," Feb. 8, 7 p.m. With storyteller Diane Ferlatte. 543 San Pablo Ave. Call 510-597-5023.

**WEST OAKLAND BRANCH** — "Tenth Annual African American Celebration through Poetry," Feb. 5, 1-4 p.m. All poets, whether published or unpublished, are welcome to participate. 1801 Adeline St. Call 510-238-7352. Free. Oakland.

**REI Berkeley** — through Feb. 24. A series of lectures on hikes and outdoors equipment.

**"Great Hawaii Adventures,"** Feb. 10, 7 p.m. Join George Fuller in a slide presentation on some of his favorite adventures in Hawaii's national parks and preserves.

"Where Spirits Soar: Beyond the Summit of K2," Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Join Greg Mortenson in a slide presentation of highlights of the 1993 West Ridge Expedition and his seven-year effort working with indigenous communities to preserve their heritage and build their future.

"Adventures in Africa," Feb. 24, 7

p.m. Join Jim Wiltens in an evening of slides and stories of driving, hiking, diving, and paragliding across South Africa and Mozambique.

Free unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-527-4140.

**A.C.C.I. Gallery** — "Reflective Images," through Feb. 26. A group exhibit of photography and glass by six Bay Area artists. Free. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-649-2541.

**Christensen Heller Gallery** — Kim Bach's paintings, through Feb. 29.

**Hugo Reichmuth**, through Feb. 29. An exhibit of custom furniture. Free. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 5831 College Ave., Oakland. Call 510-655-5952.

**Heritage Square** — "Times Ten," closing Feb. 11. An exhibit of paintings, prints and sculptures by 10 emerging Bay Area artists. Free. Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville. Call 510-547-4725.

**Bucci's Restaurant** — "Times Ten," closing Feb. 11. An exhibit of paintings, prints and sculptures by 10 emerging Bay Area artists. Free. Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville. Call 510-547-4725.

**California College Of Arts And Crafts** — "Black Box," through Feb. 25. A series of recent gallery-based film and video projections.

Through Feb. 5: Arthur Jafa.

Feb. 8-Febr. 12: Dara Friedman.

Reception, Feb. 9, 7-8 p.m.

Lecture, Feb. 9, 8 p.m. In Nahl Hall.

Feb. 15-Febr. 19: Jordan Crandall.

Reception, Feb. 16, 7-8 p.m.

Lecture, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. In Nahl Hall.

Feb. 25, 8 p.m.: Silt. Free. Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Oliver Art Center, 5212 Broadway, Oakland. Call 415-551-9210.

**Hollis Street Project** — "10 Views/22 Dimensions," closing Feb. 25. An exhibit of work by seven painters, a printmaker, and two sculptors. Call 650-949-2511.

"Click!" closing Feb. 10. An exhibit of new work by 11 Bay Area photographers. Call 510-582-8735.

"Ten Into Two Thousand," closing Feb. 11. An exhibit of various media by 10 artists. Call 510-654-4907. Free. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville.

**Lawrence Hall Of Science** — "Dinosaurs 2000," Feb. 5-June 4. An exhibit featuring 16 lifelike robotic creatures, fossils, activities to compare yourself to a dinosaur, and daily live demonstrations.

Tickets: \$6 general; \$4 seniors,

students and children ages 7 to 18;

\$2 children ages 3 to 6; free children under age 3. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Centennial Drive, UC-Berkeley. Call 510-642-5132 or [www.lhs.berkeley.edu](http://www.lhs.berkeley.edu).

**Creative Growth Art Center**

Gallery — "Go Figure! The Fantastic Figurative Worlds of Donald Mitchell,

William Scott and Gerone Spruill,"

through March 10. An exhibit by three

African-American artists with dis-

abilities. Free. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland. Call 510-836-2340.

**Graduate Theological Union** — "The Human Figure on Paper: Works from the Collection of Peter Selz," through March 31. The exhibit honors the internationally recognized art historian.

Reception, March 3, 5-7 p.m.

**"Bookworks,"** through March. An exhibit of recent works by Anne Hicks Sizerell.

Free. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-7 p.m. Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley. Call 510-649-2541.

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**Heritage Square** — "Times Ten," closing Feb. 11. An exhibit of paintings, prints and sculptures by 10 emerging Bay Area artists. Call 707-769-0675.

**"Weil Hung,"** closing Feb. 11. An exhibit of new work by a group of 10 artists. Call 510-524-0745. Free. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville.

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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

**Classes**

A series of introductory classes sponsored by Vista Community College, "Introduction to Research on the Internet," presented by Janice Carter, Golden Gate University's Information Services Librarian. "Using Internet Search Engines," takes place March 3 and 10, presented by Joe Barker, librarian and the UC-Berkeley Teaching Library, and "Internet Resources for Consumer Health Information," follows on March 17 and 24, presented by Debbie Saxon, an assistant director of UC-Berkeley's Health Library. Each workshop is conducted in two parts and costs \$5.50 per session.

**The Ecology Center**, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for young fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers; \$5 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

**Artist and educator Jessica Rosenfeld** presents "Creative Writing from the Hebrew Alphabet," an eight-session class that begins Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7-8:15 p.m. at the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center (BRJCC), 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. The class offers participants an opportunity to learn about the teachings of Hebrew and the Hebrew language. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required, and all levels of creative writing experience are welcome. The session is sponsored by the Jewish Learning Center of the BRJCC, and Lehrhaus Judaica. Contact the BRJCC, 848-0237, ext. 226 at www.lehrhaus.org.

**Writer and writer Lois Silverstein** teaches "First Steps in Finding Your Family History: The Family is a cornerstone of Jewish Life." The class begins Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., beginning Feb. 6, at Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. There is no class Feb. 20 and 27. Cost is \$25 for fee information.

**Lehrhaus** Judaca at the Reutledge Center, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, offers more than 100 classes on Judaism, Hebrew, Bible History, Culture, Player, starting in February through out the Bay Area. Call 845-6420 for a free catalog.

**Van der Zanden Studio**, 1025 Concord St., No. 9, offers sculpture classes. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

**Writing Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scrabble Time on Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 1. Scribble Time a class taught by Anne Levine, PhD, has helped people to understand themselves better and to find their voice. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

**Goodwatch** class takes place every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2328 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 848-0245 for additional information.

**Community Media (BCM)**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public will be held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Marin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2299 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

**YWCA** offers free orientations of its Learning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public including a variety of workshops held Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. For additional information call 848-6370.

**Armenian Center**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers dance classes ranging from folk-Corean to Kafanji Dances of India, West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community organization. Call 925-5054 for additional information.

**Collage and Ceramics** classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday evenings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Sponsored by Berkeley High School. Teachers are Diana Rohr and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

**Contemporary Women's Issues** classes forming at the North Berkeley Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free classes taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Classes begin 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Sponsored by Berkeley High School. Teachers are Diana Rohr and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

**Health and Fitness Classes** open to all ages, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way. Weekly fees: \$8-10. Information and fitness classes begin 8 p.m. intermediate, 9 p.m. advanced. Classes begin the first of the month; Finnish sauna. Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40.

**Swing and Jitterbug**; 7 p.m. beginning classes 8 p.m. intermediate, 9 p.m. advanced. Classes begin the first of the month; Finnish sauna. Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 — the childcare room — parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who are compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

**Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice-Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinze Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information about the location and rehearsal times, call 528-6029.

information.

**Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

**"Work Buddies"**; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Birthday party packages are available at every show. Limited unreserved tickets will be sold at the door. For additional information call 552-7469.

**The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

**The Y2K** session of "Baby Bounce and Toddler Tales," a free story-time program for families with children up to age 3 is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. through April 12 at the West Branch Berkeley Public Library, 1125 University Ave., near San Pablo. Babies and toddlers have a place in the library where they can make noise.

**Kids** and their adult companions can explore the University of California Botanical Garden with Docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. You will visit a section of the Garden that represents a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there, and then draw what you see. Call 643-2755 to reserve your space.

**Theater Rats**, Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offer swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

**Health**

**Charcot Marie Tooth** (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

**YWCA Health and Community Education**; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more, University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370. \$8 - \$10.

**Community**

**Albany Education Foundation** supporters celebrate a "Gala Gathering for Great Albany Schools" at Christopher's Cafe at 1501 Solano Ave., Albany. The event takes place Feb. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50 each. There will be a silent auction, a door prize, food, music and best of all the opportunity to support the schools. Call 524-7797 to receive a ticket or send a donation to AEF, 1320 Solano Ave., No. 102 Albany, CA 94706.

**Marion Rosen**, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Page, at 845-6606.

**The North Berkeley Senior Center**, 1901 Hearst, offers Income Tax Help beginning Feb. 15 and continuing through April 11. Call Maggi at 646-6107, to schedule an appointment.

**The Past** Exalted Rulers Association of Richmond Elks Lodge No. 1251 presents "Law Enforcement Night" on Wednesday, Feb. 9. The Lodge will recognize six West Contra Costa County Police Officers for exemplary accomplishment or act of service to the community they serve. The Police Chief from El Cerrito, Hercules, Kensington, Pinole, Richmond and San Pablo have been asked to have a police officer from their department selected as the evening's honoree. Speaker: Warren E. Rupf, Sheriff, Contra Costa County. The Lodge is located at 3931 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. For additional information or reservations, call 223-3441.

**Berkeley's Office** of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. The Office of Emergency Services also offers classes in basic personal preparedness (how to take care of yourself, family, home and neighborhood), and disaster mental health. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

**Berkeley Art Museum**, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

**The North Berkeley Senior Center**, 1901 Hearst, presents a Millennium Party with music and son by the Toru Saito and Band. Refreshments will be served at 1:15 p.m. For additional information call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 — the childcare room — parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who are compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

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**Teen A Cappella** is recruiting new members beginning Friday, Feb. 4, 4-6 p.m. at the Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Alton Way. The group is led by Oakland resident Mark Heinz, a professional drummer and teacher in jazz, funk, and rock music. The group rehearses weekly. For additional information about the location and rehearsal times, call 528-6029.

information, contact 649-2420.

**The Fig Tree** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

**Work Buddies**; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease.

Birthday party packages are available at every show. Limited unreserved tickets will be sold at the door. For additional information call 552-7469.

**The Berkeley Historical Society** an-

ounces a new exhibit, "Then and Now." We are celebrating Berkeley at the millennium through a series of photographs and artifacts comparing the old and the new. The exhibit, which is sponsored by the Mayor's Millennium Planning Committee and the Berkeley City Council, reveals what has changed and what has been preserved. Family and community life, neighborhoods,

businesses, and transportation systems are explored. The exhibit is open until March 25, Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. Admission free. Curated by Ken Cardwell and the Berkeley Historical Society Exhibit Committee

See CALENDAR, Page C10

*An Unbeatable Team...*

## Year-End STOCK GUIDE and The OUTLOOK Annual Forecast 2000

Contra Costa Newspapers offers you the investor's most valuable resource: Standard & Poor's Stock Guide and 2000 Forecast!

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**THE OUTLOOK ANNUAL FORECAST 2000** - a look at the coming investment year with the experts at Standard & Poor's. Get our renowned S&P analysts' best thinking on market and economic projections, stock choices for capital gains, long-term investing choices, recommended mutual funds, our complete list of 5-STAR stocks, and much more!

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**STOCKGUIDE & OUTLOOK ANNUAL FORECAST 2000**

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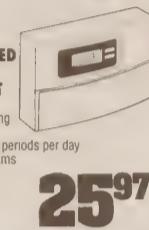
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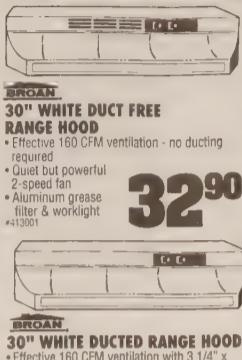


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**Holmes.  
1500 WATT  
OSCILLATING HEATER**

**39.99**

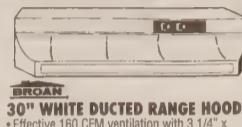


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- Effective 180 CFM ventilation - no ducting required
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- Aluminum grease filter & worklight

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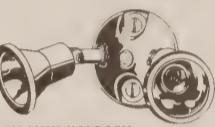


**MINI HALOGEN FLOOD LIGHT**

- 100 watt bulb included
- Easy to install
- White or bronze

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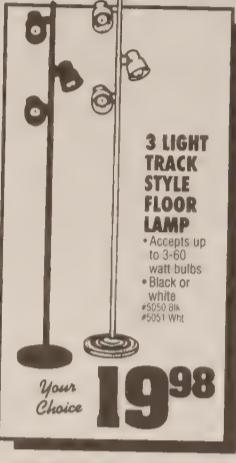


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**3 LIGHT  
TRACK  
STYLE  
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- Accepts up to 3-60 watt bulbs
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**Your  
Choice  
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**Heath Zenith  
250 WATT DECORATIVE QUARTZ  
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- Lamp - photocell and bulb

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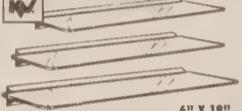
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- Clear glass shelf with white or black support
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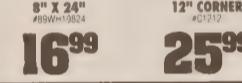
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**6" X 18"**

#898R10518

**12.99**



**8" X 18"**

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**8" X 24"**

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**16.99**



**12" X 24"**

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**12" CORNER**

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**25.99**



**12" ULTIMATE  
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- Holds up to 1,000 lbs. per pair

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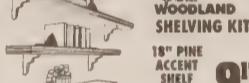
**4.96**



**16" BRACKET**

#208WH400

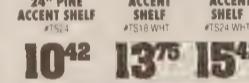
**5.67**



**20" BRACKET**

#208WH500

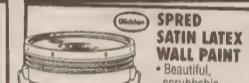
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**22" BRACKET**

#208WH550

**9.99**



**WOODLAND  
SHELVING KITS**

- 18" PINE ACCENT SHELF

#T524 WHT

**9.17**



**24" PINE  
ACCENT SHELF**

#T524 WHT

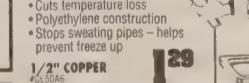
**10.42**



**18" PINE  
ACCENT SHELF**

#T524 WHT

**13.75**



**24" WHITE  
ACCENT SHELF**

#T524 WHT

**15.42**



**21 GALLON  
STORAGE  
BOX WITH LID**

- 25 1/4" x 15 1/4" x 11 1/2"

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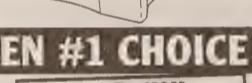
**25 GALLON  
STORAGE  
CONTAINER**

- See through container
- Durable plastic - resists cracking & breaking

25 1/4" x 15 1/4" x 11 1/2"

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**16.99**



**35 GALLON**

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**19.99**

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### OLYMPIA®- HOEMATIC

- Use as cultivator or aerator
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#66-233

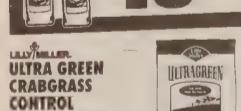
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- Choose from apples, peaches, plums & more
- 5-8' caliper

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- 20 lb. bag covers 4,000 sq. ft.

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Grows to 10 feet

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**\$2088**

Wood construction fully assembled cabinets with thermo foil doors and drawer fronts. Additional features include solid maple face frames. Blum concealed hinges, hardwood dovetail drawers with epoxy coated dual drawer glides. White laminated interiors are bright and easy to clean. Thick, durable satin white cabinet finish looks great, cleans easily, and brightens up any kitchen decor.

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 2-B15-R
- 1-B18-R
- 1-BF3
- 1-CB39R-3'
- 2-W1530-R
- 1-W1830-R
- 1-W2130-R
- 1-W2430-R
- 1-W3018
- 1-W3315
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**24" X 18" AUTUMN OAK VANITY**

- Solid oak drawer fronts & face frames with flat panel oak door
- Fully assembled all wood construction
- Marble top & faucet extra

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**\$159**

**30" X 18" 1 DOOR & 3 DRAWER**

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CALIFORNIA  
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**VALLEJO  
TENNESSEE  
80**

# Dining & Entertainment

AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Gold Coast Grill

1901 Park Street

Alameda (510) 522-5388

The Gold Coast Grill is one of Alameda's premiere fine dining restaurants, serving Mediterranean cuisine. Some of their delicious menu selections include mouth-watering steaks, lamb, the freshest seafood and homemade pastas. Reservations are recommended. The Gold Coast Grill is located in Alameda, just past the Park Street bridge.

## Kimball's East

Emerybay Public Market

Emeryville (510) 658-2555

The Bay Area's finest entertainment venue. Please check our website for our complete entertainment schedule: [www.kimballs.com](http://www.kimballs.com). We are located in the heart of Emeryville at 5800 Shellmound Street, #200. Kimball's East's phone number is (510) 658-2555 and fax number is (510) 658-3964.

## La Creme de la Creme

5362 College Avenue,

Oakland (510) 420-8822

Come join us in celebrating our 18th anniversary. We are featuring some of our signature dishes, including Grilled Jumbo Scallops and Tiger Prawns or Brochettes, Rack of Lamb ala Marechale, Rib-Eye Steak Au Poivre and Filet Mignon Oscar. Our chef has

also prepared an extraordinary Seafood Specials menu for this occasion. Try our award-winning sumptuous desserts, Gateau La Creme and

So you have a kinder, more adaptable friend in the food world than soup? Who soothes you when you are ill? ... Who warms you in the winter and cools you in the summer? ... Soup does its loyal best ... You don't catch steak hanging around when you're poor and sick, do you?

-Judith Martin  
(Miss Manners)

Pear

Brioche. You can also enjoy your dining experience in our heated garden patio. Please call (510) 420-8822 for reservations.

## The Cantina

4239 Park Blvd.

Oakland (510) 482-3073

Visualize the perfect Mexican Restaurant. What would you create? Dishes are created with the freshest ingredients available, with cilantro and a variety of mild and hot peppers. An extensive collection of hot sauces from

around the world allow you to add your own special spice to make your meal truly your own. Margarita's are made to tickle your taste buds.

The variety is outstanding, the quality and flavor unbeatable: a house margarita, golden, original, blue, pink, sweet, fruit, and of course, the ultimate. Sounds like we're on our way to a great Fiesta and more: Great luncheon specials Monday through Saturday; the hottest Happy Hour in paradise. Dine indoors or out.

## The Reef

1000  
Embarcadero

Oakland

(510) 836-2519

At The Reef restaurant

you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 18 years. The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking.

The Reef Restaurant is located one mile south of Jack London Square off

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Steaks • Seafood • Vegetarian Dishes

Pasta • Extensive Wine List

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Dinner \$12 Maximum

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FEATURING

NIMAN RANCH BEEF • SEAFOOD FRESH DAILY • ORGANIC VEGETABLES & SALAD Starters • Soups, Salads and Pastas • Seafoods Award Winning Beef Steak Sauce • Meat Classics

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Christos Marras

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Alameda 94501

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fax: 510.522.5427

## An Evening in Greece

Tuesday, Feb. 8 & Wednesday, Feb. 9  
\$21.95 per person

### OREKTIKA

Imam Bayaldi - Stuffed Eggplant with onions, tomatoes, feta  
Soutsoukakia - Grilled Meat Balls Cumin

Taramokofites - Fish Roe Cakes with Spinach

Tyropitakia - Cheese Triangles

### SOPH

Agolemono

### SALAD

Tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers, feta &amp; Kalamata olives

### ENTREES & ACCOMPANIMENTS

Kotopoulo Psiro Lemonato -

Roasted Game Hen with lemon &amp; herbs

Sea Bass Spetsiotika -

Baked Sea Bass with bread crumbs &amp; tomatoes

Pastitsio Mekima - Casserole of Meat Sauce, Macaroni &amp;

Creamy Tomato Roast Leg of Lamb

Fassoulakia Yiahi -

Braised Green Beans with tomatoes &amp; herbs

### DESSERTS

Baklava or Revani

## Dining & Entertainment GUIDE

### SEAFOOD

### Waterfront Cafe

2402 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda (510) 523-FISH Located next to Chevy's.

### MEXICAN

### Chevy's

2400 Mariner Sq., Alameda (510) 521-3768 Behind the Webster St. tube

### ENTERTAINMENT

### Kimball's East

5800 Shellmound, Emeryville (510) 658-2555 Powell St. exit from 880

### CALIFORNIA CUISINE

### Meridian Restaurant & Lounge

1051 Pacific Marina, Alameda (510) 748-0920

For information on the Dining & Entertainment Guide,  
call Duke Reedy at (510) 339-4036

HILLS NEWSPAPERS INC

5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619

880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

## Scott's Seafood

### Restaurant

#2 Broadway - Oakland (510) 444-3456

Scott's Seafood Restaurant, located in the heart of Jack London Square will be hosting its annual Bridal Faire on Thursday, February 24, 2000, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

An array of vendors will be on hand to help assist with the planning of one of the most memorable days of your life. Please join Scott's in "An Affair to Remember" with complimentary Champagne and Hors D'oeuvres.

## Kimball's East

Bay Area's Best Entertainment Venue

All Shows &amp; 1/2 Shows unless otherwise noted

## STAX/VOLT ALL STARS

FEBRUARY 4-5-6

2 Shows 8pm and 10pm

## PIECES OF A DREAM

FEBRUARY 11-12-13

2 Shows 8pm and 10pm

## RARRON EDWARDS

FEBRUARY 14

2 Shows 8pm and 10pm

## GIL-SCOTT HERON

FEBRUARY 18-19-20

2 Shows 8pm and 10pm

## \$99 Sedan Special

2 Tickets Preferred Seating/Champagne, Limited Amount\*

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Purchase Tickets by Phone: MC/Visa

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FAST FREE DELIVERY (LIMITED AREAS)

Pizza • Pasta • Salad  
Sandwiches  
Wine, Beer & More

1598 University Ave.

@ California

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

## SCOTT'S

Since 1976

## AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

Thursday, February 24, 2000, 6-8pm

### Scott's Bridal Faire

#2 Broadway Jack London Square, Oakland

Champagne and Hors D'oeuvres

Raffle, Formal Wear, Specialty Vendors

Scott's Pavilion Room

RSVP (510) 444-5969

Looking for a special place to spend  
Valentines Day  
with your  
special someone?

May we suggest...  
**The Cantina**

Call for Reservations

4239 Park Blvd. (510) 482-3663

Oakland Glenview District

FREE  
photographs of couples  
Monday, Feb 14



## GARIBALDIS PRESENTS A

## FEATURED MENU

### FOR EARLY DINERS

Before 6:45 pm

\$18.95 per person

After 6:45 pm \$21.95 per person

SUN - WED NIGHTS

5356 College

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## Chevy's

FRESH MEX\*

ALAMEDA

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## --PUBLIC NOTIFICATION--

## --PUBLIC NOTIFICATION--

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**To place an ad, call 339-8777. For Alameda call 748-1667.**

## HILLS

**HILLS**

## For the Children's ballot recommendations

### West County School Watch

By Glen Price

For the Children of West County, the action committee that waged the campaign for Measure E, the successful school bond measure, has issued recommendations on ballot initiatives for the March 7 election. The recommendations encompass those issues deemed to have a significant impact on children and/or public education. These are also listed on the Children's Web site, <http://www.childrenswestcounty.com/> (another great site built by WCCUSD teacher Amy Bugnus).

**Proposition 26 School Facilities:** This is arguably the best chance on a state level to reduce the negative effects of Prop. 13. Its passage will certainly help West County state for state matching funds to build and repair our schools. For more information on the "Let's Fix Our Schools" initiative see <http://www.letsfixourschools.com/>

In West County, the United Teachers of Richmond CTA/NEA is waging a strong campaign in support of Prop. 26. Unfortunately recent polls have shown support for the measure slipping as Jarvis/Gann forces launch a massive media assault. Volunteers are greatly needed to assist teacher members of UTR with phone banking to get the word out about the need for Prop.

Phone banking has already begun and will continue through Feb. 17, Monday through Thursday of each week, from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. Any window of time you can provide within that period is fine. In addition, packets are available to make calls from home. Call the UTR office at 510-281-1212 to sign up for a phone bank or arrange for pick up of a phone book. "Dear Friend" cards are also available from the UTR office.

Prop. 28 Tobacco tax repeal: NO.

Prop. 28 would rescind Prop. 10 and

autographed by Ron Howard; a photo autographed by Hansen, as well as scripts from "Titanic," "Star Trek Voyager," "The Practice," signed by the whole cast, and other signed photos and Hollywood memorabilia. Autographed books from writers include the San Francisco Chronicle's Adair Lara and Doonesbury cartoonist Gary Trudeau will also be offered, as well as a collectible Gene Doll, "Destry," dressed in her 1930s movie star costume.

The event will also include items donated by local businesses and community members, including a number of autographed novels.

Admission is free. Desserts will be available for purchase from some of the area's finest bakeries. Bring your sweetheart and get him or her something special from the stars for Valentine's Day!

**What:** Harding Goes Hollywood Live and Silent Auction

**When:** 6:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12

**Where:** Harding Elementary School Auditorium 7230 Fairmount Ave. (at Ashbury) El Cerrito (four blocks East of El Cerrito Plaza BART)

For more information, call 510-524-0744.

**Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your email address?** Send the message "Subscribe" to [pakglen@aol.com](mailto:pakglen@aol.com).

Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch Web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

# Calendar

FROM PAGE C5

**The Berkeley Art Center**, 1275 Walnut St. in Live Oak Park, continues its exhibit, "Small is Beautiful" through Feb. 12. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. "Mom's Gift," an art exhibit through Feb. 12, at Nexus Gallery, 2701 Eighth St. Hours: 1-5 p.m. Closed Monday. The exhibit features the works of seven members of the Josephson family. A reception is Saturday, Feb. 5 from 1-5 p.m. Call 548-2261 for additional information.

**ACCI Gallery**, 1652 Shattuck Ave., presents "Reflective Images," a group exhibition of six bay area artists, through Feb. 26. The exhibition features the photography of Barbara Bobes, Ira Lapidus, Mario Savioni, Susan Homes Schwartzbach, Catherine Stone and the glass of Michael Sosin. Call 843-2527 for additional information.

**"Serial Monogamy,"** a mixed media art exhibit, through April 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Communications Technology Center, 2201 Broadway, second floor. Participating artists include Lisa Evans, Nancy Fascani, Shannon M. Jaffee, Joanna Katz, Dorothy Nissen, Cathy Perillo, Diane Rusnak. Call 647-3513 for additional information.

**The Art of Living Black (TAOLB) Window Project**, a free exhibit in store front windows.

dows adjacent to the Tribune Building, TGIF and Tony Roma's restaurants at Jack London Square in downtown Oakland. This windows display is part of the ongoing Artship Foundation's Windows Project, curated by Augusto Ferriols. For more information call 724-9274.

**"New Landscapes,"** by David Steinhardt is on display at the YWCA, UC-Berkeley, 2600 Bancroft Way, through Feb. 27. The acrylic paintings are from the Water's Edge series depicting in luminous detail the boundary between the water and the land. Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 848-6370 for evening and weekend hours or additional information.

**The Photoshot**, 2235 Fifth St., continues its exhibition of photographs by eight Photo Instructors from Oakland's Studio One Art Center. The exhibit is free. Hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, closed. Call 843-6999 for additional information.

**Jenny Lee** and Monica Marini, "Two Women Creating," open their 2716 Russell St. studio. Both women are artists dedicated to their craft and currently sharing teaching positions at Park Day School in Oakland. Each has spent the past 20 plus years living and loving the creative process. All will be for sale. For additional information call 644-9341.

**The Albany Arts Committee** exhibits "Into the Light Paintings by Kenet" continuing through Feb. 24, at the Albany Community Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin

Ave. Call 524-9283 for additional information.

**"Snowmen in Summer,"** a solo exhibition by Carrie Lederer takes place at the John F. Kennedy Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information call 649-0499.

**Alta Bates** Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information. New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

## Literary Events

**The Graduate** Theological Union presents its Eighth Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts: Speeches for the Removal of Grief, from Tlaloc Oratory on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Richard S. Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road. This is a free evening of dramatic

readings featuring Nora Marks Dauenhauer, celebrated Native American poet and playwright Richard Dauenhauer, former poet laureate of Alaska. A reception will follow. For more information, call 649-2420.

**Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS)** presents storyteller Marijo on Sunday, Feb. 6, noon and 1:30 p.m. Marijo's "Everybody's Got a Story," weaves music, dance and stories to celebrate the contributions of Black scientists and inventors. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children 7-18, seniors, and students; and \$2 for children 3-6. For additional information, call 642-5132.

**The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans

printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must compete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

## Meetings

**The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce** Ambassadors present a networking breakfast on Friday, Feb. 8, 7:15-8:45 a.m., at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. Members: \$10, non-members: \$15. The price includes a continental breakfast. Call the Berkeley

Chamber at 549-7003 for information. **A Peace Corps** Information takes place at UC-Berkeley. Meetings are Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. at UC-Berkeley Student Union Douglas Fir Room. Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. at UC-Berkeley Student Union Tan Oak Room. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (800) 488-8580, option 1.

**The El Cerrito Garden Club** presents the El Cerrito Community Center on Thursday, Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. Bacon, owner of Lawntress Landscaping, will speak on "Irrigation for Residential Lawns." Guests: \$3. Call 758-2878 for more information.

# Ricochet Consignment Furniture

A taste of the past made present is the theme at this 9,300 square foot warehouse based furniture emporium in Emeryville. The kind of rebound opportunities Ricochet presents to the consumer is best described by owner Phyllis Long. "It is a great way to recycle and revive your 20th century belongings," she says.

Long is a Certified Interior Designer and allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers. Her 20 years of experience include being a co-founder of Cupola in Lafayette. The decision to move to a warehouse venue is based on her knowledge of the industry. "Most residential clients and designers end up with a surplus of perfectly good furnishings following a renovation project; moving, or as a result of editing their home," says Long. "Designers accumulate these items and are looking for a place to sell them." The plan is to showcase what I call 'furniture with experience'."

The philosophy at work here is simple. This warehouse consignment busi-

ness is a resource for the public and designers alike to buy and sell quality furnishings in a variety of styles and prices. Inventory includes custom made, high-end furniture, as well as show room samples. "Many customers today value bargains and instant gratification which is what consignment is primarily about," Long says. "The point is to provide great value in the resale market so items move in-and-out quickly."

Ricochet previews all items for acceptability and immediate resale. These furnishings can be brought in if easily transportable. A representative pillow, drawer or photograph will suffice for reasonably priced consignment. "Our intention is to meet high standards of customer service and selection," says Long.

The Ricochet effect also extends to the community. Along with complimenting the growing mix of furniture outlets in Emeryville, Long's new endeavor plans to donate unsold items to charities for use in transitional housing projects. In the future, Ricochet will be scheduling a

## BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

variety of design focused workshops and art shows featuring local talent.

Stop in and visit this architecturally interesting warehouse space in Emeryville. Whether you are watching your wallet, or ready to splash, it is well worth your time to discover and explore the world of consignment furniture found at Ricochet!

4062 Wattie St., Emeryville, between 40th and Park, adjacent to the Home Depot Center. Open: Tues. - Sat., 10-5:30, Sun., 12-5. (510) 923-1422, fax (510) 923-1460. [ricochetconsignment@slip.net](mailto:ricochetconsignment@slip.net)

For information on the Business Focus, call Advertising at 339-4030.

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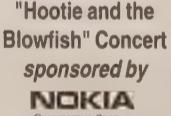
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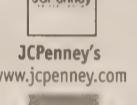
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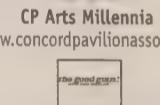
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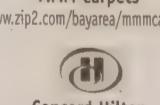
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# The Auto Section

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

February 4, 2000

Section D

**New Models** Mazda 626 ages most gracefully for 2000 [D2]

**Spare Parts** Pontiac unveils Piranha concept with 'tude [D3]

**Car Clubs** There's a car lover's group for you not far from home [D3]

## High-performance batteries, tires tops

### Aftermarket Reports

By K.T. Michaels

**C**ar batteries seem to die at the most inconvenient times. The situation turns worse when it's cold or late at night or you're stranded alone or with your children on a dark road or in a bad neighborhood.

Waiting for an emergency service or asking a stranger for help with jumper cables can be a safety concern. Now technology is taking a huge leap forward, making it possible to start engines in seconds with a product that weighs less than five pounds. SecureStart instant engine starter, from Bolder Technologies Corp., starts engines in seconds due to revolutionary Thin Metal Film technology that delivers ultra high power in a compact lightweight package.

SecureStart is easy to use, with cables that pull out to attach to the car battery — no need for outside help or another car. SecureStart instant engine starter has a built-in high-intensity light to see in the dark and inside vehicles, and an audible alert, a beep that sounds when it's time to recharge the unit.

SecureStart works in cold temperatures, when batteries are most likely to fail. It stays charged for up to a year, and can be recharged in as little as five minutes. This advanced new product starts

See REPORTS, Page D2



**THE TOYO PROXES H4** is an all-season high performance radial that combines uncompromised performance with a long tread life and a smooth, quiet ride. The Proxes H4 is suitable for plus-sizing on a variety of domestic and import sport and touring sedans, including BMW 325, Honda Accord and Prelude, Pontiac Grand Am and Infiniti G20 (above).

### Drive, She Said



By  
Denise  
McCluggage

Honda Accord most prone to get boosted.

## Rankings put thefts, finds in their place

We are list makers. To-do lists, best-dressed lists, best-seller lists, top-ten lists. In keeping with this tradition I present four lists, gleaned from here and there, all dealing with cars. First, a list that is for some perverse reason always fascinating — the Top Ten most stolen vehicles in the U.S.

Maybe we hope that our car makes the list to prove it is desirable, but then again we worry if it's there because it is imperiled. Anyway, the list released by the National Insurance Crime Bureau in October 1999 is in order of most reported thefts:

1. Honda Accord
2. Toyota Camry

See LISTS, Page D2

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98 Chevrolet Prizm Sedan 4Dr \$10,988 #P5005	95 Toyota Celica ST \$11,988 #P5069	96 Toyota Camry LE \$12,988 #P5074	98 Saturn SL1 Sedan 4 Dr \$12,988 #32637A	97 Honda Accord SE \$14,988 #P6029	99 Mazda 626 Like New! \$14,988 #P6039	98 Nissan PU \$14,988 #P6023	94 BMW 325i Sedan 4Dr \$16,988 #42902A	97 Outback Subaru Wagon \$19,988 #P6030	97 Saab 900 SE Hatchback 5 Dr \$20,988 #P4586	96 Toyota 4Runner SR5 \$21,988 #P5044

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# 2000 Mazda 626 sedan proves more refined with age

## Down the Road

By Tom Keane

What does the Mazda 626 sedan have in common with a fine bottle of wine? Both seem to improve with age.

This Japanese sedan was introduced in the United States in 1979 as a four-door sedan and two-door coupe with a 2.0-liter engine and rear-wheel drive. In 1983, it was introduced as a front-wheel drive vehicle, and a couple years later a turbocharged engine was offered. As this manufacturer's popularity continued to grow, in 1989, Mazda began assembling their cars in Flat Rock, Mich.

Through the nineties, the 626 has been tweaked in various ways, but it wasn't until 1998 when a major change was made. The designers and engineers gave it a larger interior, a sportier ride, and a more fun-to-drive handling system. So what's been improved on the 2000 model? Plenty!

The word "plenty" might be misleading. Most of the changes are subtle. Collectively, however, they make the 626 a sportier and more elegant car.

Take a look at the 2000 model and you'll see a slight, yet distinct crease through the front fender that draws attention to the multi-reflective halogen headlamps and the five-point grille with the Mazda emblem. This attention-seeking glitter in the front is contrasted by the conservative, smooth lines in the rear end.

Inside, the 626 exposes a more luxurious scene with leather upholstery and leather wrapped steering wheel and transmission shifter. (My tester had a manual transmission.) The driver's seat has six-way power with a seat lifter, and the rear seat has a 60/40 fold-down seatback. In addition to the carpeted floor are floor mats. And the trunk offers sufficient storage for luggage. Collectively, these touches make the 626 an upscale car.

Another feature included in the \$22,445 base price of the 626 is a



QWER

fold-down rear center armrest with cupholders and storage bin. The 626 has a power sliding moonroof, power windows, remote door locks, and dual front cupholders. Other areas of thoughtfulness are map lights and a sunglasses holder.

If I wanted to nitpick, I would mention the tight squeeze for me to get in and out of the front seat, but others didn't agree, so I'll refrain from making further comment. However, once I got behind the wheel, the visibility from the front seat was ex-

cellent. And that's where some of the other subtle changes of the 2000 model become more noticeable.

A 2.5-liter V6 engine that delivered a modest 170 horsepower powered my tester. But there was nothing modest about the car's performance. It was enjoyable feeling the spirited acceleration when downshifting and stomping on the gas pedal.

And when driving in the city, simply leaving it in fourth gear, I had all the get-up-and-go needed.

What make the ride even more enjoyable is this car's handling. The 626 is a midsize sedan, easy to maneuver with a responsive steering system, making this car a delight to drive both in city traffic and on an open road.

Adding to the enjoyment is the Bose audio system with large buttons and dials, easy to tune and accommodating both CDs and cassettes. The six-speaker CD changer was one of the few options on my tester. The other options were anti-

lock brakes with traction control, and dual side airbags. Incidentally, the braking system has been improved on the 2000 model. The Mazda people say it has 20 percent reduction in pedal effort. They also say that they have made more than 70 changes to this model.

To appreciate the true essence of this finely tuned sedan, all one has to do is get behind the wheel and "uncork" it.

## SPECIFICATION

### MAZDA 2000 626 ES

■ VEHICLE TYPE
5-passenger, 4-door FWD sedan
■ BASE PRICE
\$22,445 (as tested: \$24,220)
■ ENGINE TYPE
V6 DOHC 16-valve w/ER
■ HORSEPOWER (net)
170 at 6000 rpm
■ TRANSMISSION
5-speed manual
■ WHEELBASE
105 in. 2667 mm
■ TREAD (front/rear)
59 / 59 in. 1498 / 1498 mm
■ OVERALL LENGTH
187 in. 4749 mm
■ OVERALL WIDTH
69 in. 1752 mm
■ HEIGHT
55 in. 1397 mm
■ TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb) 36 ft. 11 in
■ CURB WEIGHT
3,023 lbs. 1371 kg
■ FUEL CAPACITY
14 gals. 3.70 L
■ EPA MILEAGE RATING
21 city, 27 highway
■ ASSEMBLY PLANT
Flat Rock, Mich.
■ STRONG FEATURE
Handling
■ WEAK FEATURE
Entry

## Lists

### FROM PAGE D1

3. Chevrolet full-size pickup
4. Jeep Cherokee/Jeep Grand Cherokee
5. Honda Civic
6. Oldsmobile Cutlass
7. Ford full-size pickup
8. Ford Mustang
9. Dodge Caravan
10. Toyota Corolla

Second, a list of the best sellers. You might notice some correlation between the two lists indicating that, quite unexpectedly, the most common vehicles are usually the ones most often stolen. This list is for 1998. Note that the top three are trucks. Indeed, only four cars make the top ten.

1. Ford F-Series pickup
2. Chevrolet Silverado pickup
3. Ford Explorer
4. Toyota Camry
5. Dodge Ram pickup
6. Honda Accord
7. Ford Taurus
8. Honda Civic
9. Ford Ranger pickup
10. Dodge Caravan

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## CAR PARTS

## Piranha attack

Piranha is sure to grab you wherever it goes. This four-seat, front wheel drive car has an athletic stance with 19-inch rear wheels and 18-inch front wheels. Piranha's interior design is influenced by sports equipment. A flat load floor and removable cargo carrier in the back can be accessed through a rear door with a hatch that folds flat. Piranha features a sun open-air driving choice and a fabric roof panel that opens to the side between fixed roof rails.

## Gripping move

Include a bag of sand or some other abrasive (i.e. kitty litter, rock salt or burlap bags) in your vehicle to use for traction in case you get stuck, says race car driver Lyn St. James. She also adds the more obvious winter driving advise saying that snow tires give you extra traction, and chains increase safety on snow or ice-packed roads.

## Off and running

When the words "Gentlemen, start your engines!" are said at the 84th running of Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 28th, Oldsmobile's new 2001 Aurora will lead the pack as the official pace car. The Aurora will sport a special paint treatment from solid orange paint in the front of the car to orange-and-white checkers at the rear, with the Oldsmobile logo on the hood, Aurora emblems on the fenders, and Indianapolis 500 logos on the doors.

— Motor Matters

## Charged situation

Many auto batteries are needlessly discarded, according to Batteries Plus. They claim routine maintenance can prolong battery life. Such things as tightening loose connections, checking vent caps, and wiping moisture on the case can prolong life. For more information, call MR-START for a Batteries Plus location near you.

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## 1913-1918 Buick Club

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Attn: Harr, Logan

## 1950s Club

1000 Hollenbeck Avenue  
Bunnyvale, CA 94087

## 1950s Corvette Association

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President: Henrik Hansen, (415) 455-0510 or AlfaGTV@pacbell.net  
Membership: Richard Thompson, 428-5410 or richthom@gtc.net  
Newsletter: Overhead Cams

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## 1950s Automobile Club of America, California Region

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Don Azevedo 925-427-6624; Sec: Jim Atherton 925-228-5750.  
2nd Tues. of the month. For info call for meeting place. For info interested in autos 25 years older. Web site: www.aaca.org.

## 1950s Chevy Club

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## 1950s Miata Club of America

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Bunnyvale, CA 94088-0532  
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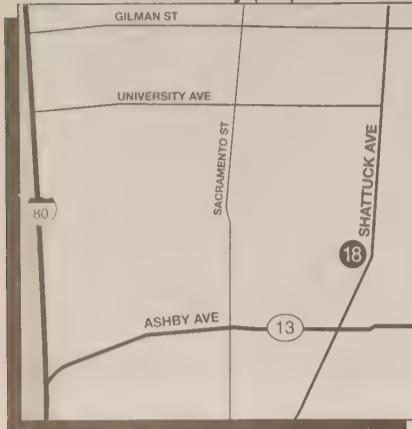
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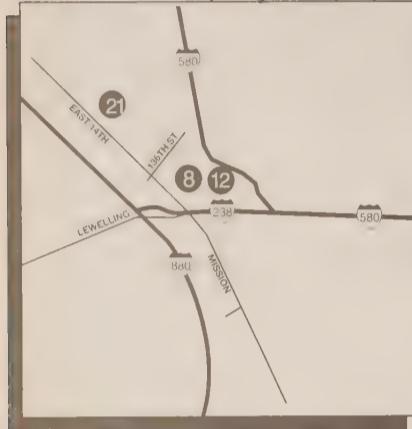
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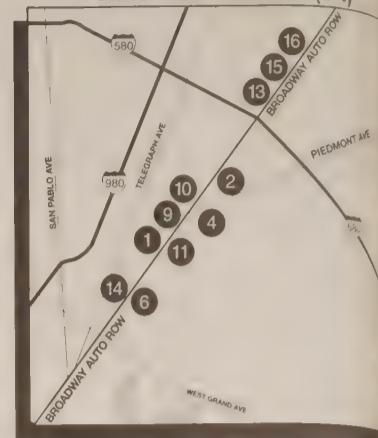
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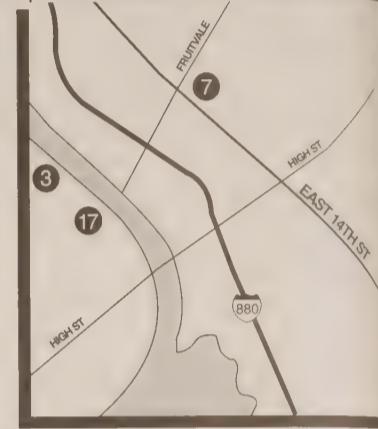
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## Auto Row Oakland (C-4)



## East 14th St. (International Blvd.) (C-4)



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18. Toyota of Berkeley (B-3)  
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20. Antioch Toyota (G-1)  
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**MEDICAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST** P/T evens. \$325/35hr. (510) 548-8890

**MEDICAL**

**QUALITY SPECIALIST-SUPERVISOR**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**

ARC El Dorado, Inc., No. CA Region, seeks P/T individual to plan/direct the work of the ARC in the area of the Medical Health Commission, under "Administrative".

**MERCHANDISING** P/T for Southern Wine & Spirits of El Dorado, Inc., seeks P/T individual less. Work entails moving cases & stocking bottles to ship to stores. Pay \$12.50/lowload (per month). Fax resume: 510/477-7169; e-mail: [hrdept@el-dorado.com](mailto:hrdept@el-dorado.com); fax 510-477-7893

**MODELS-Adsmprbrochures** Petites to 1-2 mo. contracts for Japan. (925) 943-1789

**MORTGAGE**

Join the company that is known for their quality and success. Fremont Investment & Loan, a well-established B&C Residential lender and our growth and expansion opportunity for a career-oriented individual.

**WHOLESALE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES & INSIDE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**

Selected candidate will develop and service mortgage loans for individuals and families. Must have 2+ years' sales experience in the non-conventional area. Must be a team player and an established broker following. Excellent oral communication, marketing, and PC skills are essential.

We reward our talented professionals with an exceptional work environment and excellent benefits, including 401K. Please forward your resume to: Fremont Investment & Loan, Attn: Connie McLean, 175 North Riverview Drive, Alameda, CA 94508, Phone: 510-655-2328

**MEDICAL SECRETARY**

Medical office in need of medical secretary, w/ computer knowledge. S. typing 200 wpm. Fax resume to: 510-554-2328

**MEDICAL**

**SOFTWARE ANALYST/TESTER**

Are you ready for a change from billing? We're looking for a software developer with quality assurance billing on our medical billing software. We're seeking a highly motivated exp. computer literate, strong analytical & basic accounting skills. Must be a programmer. Post is located in termite software, dump of, 401K, and vacation pay. Competitive salary and progressive medical, 401K, 403B, and vacation pay. Now for appointment. Fax resume: 925-938-6031

**MEDICAL Receptionist/Ast. Will train top candidate for P/T Hill solo office. Fax resume to: 510-554-2328**

**MEDICAL**

**THE MEDICAL PAVILION**

A member of the John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System, we are accepting applications for:

**Unit Secretary**

Part time 20 hrs week, benefit positions. Previous Unit Secretary experience and knowledge of medical terminology a must. Previous experience working with adolescents a plus.

We offers competitive salary and benefits package. EOE. Send resume or fax resume to:

**MEDICAL PAVILION**

2740 Grant Street

Concord, CA 94520

FAX: 925-655-2328

Attn: Human Resources

**△ MEDICAL PAVILION**

John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System

**MEDICAL**

**TRANSCRIPTIONISTS**

Radiology

Part time 20 hrs week, benefit positions. Previous Unit Secretary experience and knowledge of medical terminology a must. Previous experience working with adolescents a plus.

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**MEDICAL**

**RECEPTIONISTS**

Seeking self starter to service

Pittsburg area store. Flexible hours. 1-800-869-0473

**Nursing**

HCR-ManoCare, a dedicated provider of

quality skilled nursing care, is currently

seeking an Assistant Director of Nursing to

join our facilities in Walnut Creek.

**A.D.O.N.**

The full-time position requires an RN with a minimum of 2+ years management experience in a long-term care setting.

Excellent human relations and clinical skills are a must.

We offer a competitive compensation package. Please send your resume or apply in person to: ManoCare Health Services, Attn: John Gallick, 1226 Rossmoor Pkwy., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Tel: 925-937-1132

**△ ManorCare**

Health Services™

**MEDICAL-X-RAY TECH.** F/T general radiology, mammography, cert. req., 2 yrs. experience, good communication & language skills plus. New Richmond Office. Also X-Ray Tech. approx. 10 yrs. exp. Orinda & Oakland. Ofc. General Radiology. Requirements: 2 yrs. exp. Must be part-time, working every other weekend and weekday. P/T, 20 hrs. week. Call 925-239-7395.

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The largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay Area

[www.hotcoco.com/jo](http://www.hotcoco.com/jo)

## 250 Help Wanted

### SALES

### LICENSED INSURANCE AGENTS

Combined Insurance, a subsidiary of AGC Inc., is seeking a licensed manager to manage a live local area. Guaranteed income to start with \$500 to \$750 per month plus a percentage of your quality Comm. bnts. Two weeks expense paid training.

Call now for a personal interview. Contact Jim Gonsalves at 707-691-3554, TODAY! EOEMF

**SALES** of travel products. Big SS potential. We will train. Call: 888-493-4884 ext. 2040

### CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy!

## 250 Help Wanted

### SALES

### Morgan Stanley

Dean Witter

has an opening for a Financial Advisor Trainee. Paid Internship training program offered. Business development and sales and communications skills required. Please call 888-217-9051, Attn: Bob J. D'Ambrugia, Pleasanton.

Fax (925) 847-0974. EOE

**SALES** Non-profit seeks professional individual with strong verbal and written communication skills to act as corporate sponsor for events and programs. Sales experience, fund raising and account management a must. Fax res to 925/977-1822

### CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy!

## 250 Help Wanted

### SALES

### Sales Professionals

Foster City, San Jose and Pleasanton

SALES

**3 PERMANENT JOB POSITIONS LOCALLY**

Due to company promotions, 3 openings exist now in the sales department of a large international financial services and companies. If selected, you will be given 3 weeks of extensive training and additional on-the-job training. We offer a major medical, dental and optional pension plan second to none. Your base salary will be \$22,000-\$35,000 1st year depending on ability and qualifications. All positions are based on merit, not seniority. You will be ambitious, eager to get ahead, have a 12th grade education, and be able to work hard, work smart and work with a team. If you are looking for a genuine career opportunity, call or write today, please call Mr. Sam Chantari, Monday, Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, 525-263-7700.

**SALES PERSON** pt/Berkley Health Insurance. Strong communication/people prof, reg. retail exp, pref. will call 510-849-6094

**SALES/Pharmaceutical** new med. div. of NCX company needs indep. sales reps to call on med. off. offices. Commiss. on \$1000-\$1500. F/T. Entry level. Exp. pref. Call 825-5034 or email skt123@bigplanet.com

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**SALES Position**

New gardening product not yet introduced to market. Gardeners, sales, exp., w/mailed catalogues and some travel req. Some travel req. Sales area: San Francisco. Call to PO Box 12345 Latanya, CA 94549 or 925-263-1213.

**SALES-RADIO**

Media and/or sales exp. pref.

Must have passion for 105 & Howard Stern and a desire to work in a fast-paced, high-energy business in Bay Area.

Resumes Attn: HR, KITS-FM, 720 2nd Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. No phone call or e-mail. EOE

**SALES: Rapidly growing Net-work Software** Developer seeking high potential sales personnel. Must have proven Sales, atrributes and excellent communication skills. Excellent benefits/great people/ FAX resume to 925-937-2479

**CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy!**

## 250 Help Wanted

### SALES

### Tradeshow Booth Sales

10 yr old international trade show seeks exp. telephone operator, exp. in customer service, loyalty. NO COLD CALLS. Fax resume to 925-288-9999. EOE. Email: frankie@pexco.com

**SALES TRAINEE**

Local office of national service company seeks career oriented individuals interested in outside sales. Our products and services include offering enormous market potential with broad based territories. Our lucrative compensation plan includes: a training commission and incentive plans, flexible/ideal/alt. to allow for part-time and 40/10k plans. For consideration: Fax resume to 925-296-0444. EOE, M/F/D/V

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**250 Help Wanted**

**TEACHERS**

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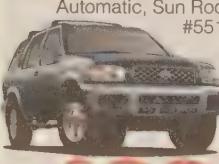
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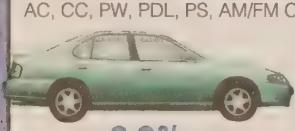


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#### 95 Chevy Metro SD

Auto, Power Steering, AM/FM Cass, Dual Air Bags #72058/108698

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#### 99 Suzuki Swift

Auto, AC, AM/FM Cass, Dual Air Bags #600734/11277A

**\$8,995**

#### 97 Toyota Corolla Sdn

AC, Power Steering, AM/FM Cass, Dual Air Bags #563088/1579P

**\$10,995**

#### 96 Toyota 4 Runner SR5

V6, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, AM/FM Cass., 4 wheel ABS, running boards. #096036/10978A

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#### 99 Toyota Solara

AC, Auto, Leather, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, Alloys, Pwr moonroof & much more. 232171/1554

**COME & DRIVE**

#### 95 Jeep Wrangler S

Convertible, 4 Wheel Drive, AM/FM Cass. #243730/11117A

**COME & DRIVE**

#### 98 Chevy Malibu

Auto, AC, PS, PW, PL, Tilt, Cruise, Cass. ABS & Alloys #120393/1545P

**\$13,595**

#### 95 Toyota Avalon XLS

V-6, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, Cruise, CD Changer, Leather, Moon Roof, Alloy Wheels #020925/11448A

**\$14,995**

#### 95 Toyota Tercel

Air Cond., AM/FM Stereo Cass., Dual Air Bags #101273/11271A

**\$5,995**

#### 93 Toyota Camry

V6, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, AM/FM Cass., moonroof, alloy wheels. 194589/10783A

**\$10,995**

#### 97 Isuzu Rodeo

AC, Power Steering, AM/FM Cass., Dual Air Bags 309049/11123A

**\$13,995**

#### 96 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4

V-6, Auto, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, Cruise, CD, Moonroof, Running Boards, Much More. #051933/1573P

**\$19,495**

#### 97 Mercury Tracer

Auto, Air Cond., AM/FM Stereo Cass., Air Bags #618774/1541P

**\$8,595**

#### 98 Pontiac Sunfire

Auto, AC, Tilt Cass, ABS Dlo. #821698/1508P

**\$11,695**

#### 99 Toyota Avalon XLS

V-6 Auto, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, Cass./CD, Leather, Moon, Roof, ABS. #326160/1542P

**COME SEE & DRIVE**

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February 4, 2000

SHOPS AND SERVICES BEYOND THE HILLS  
ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

## Make thyme for Valentine's Day dining Haute Stuff plans a hot meal

By Tuseda A. Griggs  
CORRESPONDENT

MARTINEZ — At Haute Stuff, Valentine's Day dining isn't only about taste. It's about aroma and appearance, sensuous touch and romantic moods.

Haute Stuff (pronounced hot stuff) restaurant is hosting a culinary event for Valentine's Day that will blend elements to appeal to all of our senses. This dinner will cover all the romantic bases, said Pat English, co-owner. And, it will be the first in a series of seasonal dining events.

The restaurant, on Main Street just across from the county courthouse, has operated in that spot for 14 years. English and her co-owner and fiancé Dennis Roda bought the establishment four years ago.

"It's a very creative place. I hate to say 'gourmet,' because gourmet sometimes scares people away," she said. "But all the food is fresh and made daily."

The lunch menu changes daily, she said. Monday through Friday, Haute Stuff presents a different choice of soups and salads, breads and sandwiches.

The restaurant, with its informal style and cozy ambiance, has seating for about 50 patrons. The hot spot specializes in lunch, but is tiptoeing into the dinner hour, since the catering business that helps subsidize the restaurant has been a great success, English said.

"It's fun to do something this creative," she said. "(The hours) can be killer but it's also a

very positive experience. Every morning I walk in I say 'hello Haute Stuff.' I love it. Most of the events we cater, like weddings, are for people when they are happy, so it's a lot of fun too."

For the Valentine's Day dinner, Saturday, Feb. 12, English, Roda and Head Chef Mike Romak, formerly of Plump Jack in San Francisco, plan a food and drink feast of wonderful proportions. Reservations are required for the \$60 per person Wine Dinner extravaganza.

Romak, whom English credits with "shaping the way we're going," began working at the Martinez establishment just three months ago.

Haute Stuff staff plans to engage all five of the patrons' senses during the dinner. The menu includes a wide variety of culinary specialties that Romak has perfected over the years.

English also plans to offer chocolate truffles.

"Anything that has to do with Valentine's Day has to have chocolate," she said.

Romak was drawn to the huge open kitchen and the mural that a former chef/artist created, a lovely view of a French country kitchen.

Before he became head chef at Haute Stuff, Romak worked with English on the restaurant's catering business.

Creating a romantic mood at home isn't difficult. Decorate with candles, play soft, soothing music, and allow the aroma of sumptuous food to have its way.

Please see HAUTE, Page 2



KEN PERKINS/STAFF  
ESPRESSO CHOCOLATE MOUSSE cake with raspberry coulis from chef Mike Romak at Haute Stuff in downtown Martinez.

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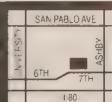
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**VISA**

# Tired of what's served at 30,000 feet? Some passengers rebel

By Tom Sietsema  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The United Airlines flight from Washington to London was only minutes under way when coach passenger Barbara Walker Vaughan started celebrating her 50th birthday.

Reaching into a net bag, the Washington real estate consultant pulled out a spread worthy of a cover on Gourmet magazine: smoked salmon,

duck rillettes, a few noble cheeses, even caviar, which she had carefully stowed next to a small ice pack and had properly partnered with toast points. Vaughan arranged the luxurious nibbles on disposable dinnerware and passed them around to her seven traveling companions, thoughtfully remembering the flight attendants with a plate of their own.

Somehere over the Atlantic, the crew returned the favor, presenting Vaughan and her pals with Champagne from the front of the plane. "You had more fun than anyone in the first cabin," a flight attendant toasted the birthday girl, who spent more on her airborne picnic than she had

## HAUTE

FROM PAGE 1

Romak suggests creating a Thyme-scented Roquefort Soufflé (recipe below) as a way to ignite the romantic mood. The recipe is not too difficult, but when pre-

pared correctly is a wonderful complement to a meal.

**Thyme-scented Roquefort Soufflé**

12 6 ounce ramekins  
2 oz. clarified butter  
3 oz. flour  
18 oz. milk  
6 egg yolks

says Terri Owen, a representative of the Association of Flight Attendants, who has greeted passengers toting picnic baskets and buckets of fried chicken on her flights. "Airlines have been cutting back dramatically."

Food spending per passenger averaged a mere \$4.49 in 1998, slightly higher than the previous year but well below the \$6.11 that U.S. airlines shelled out in 1992, according to the Department of Transportation. Low-cost carriers like Southwest Airlines, which spends less than a dollar a passenger for food service, instruct reservations agents to remind passengers of the company's limited menu — a snack pack of Melba toast, a cheese wedge, cereal bar and beef stick might not sate anyone for the 5 1/2 hours it takes to go from Phoenix to Providence. R.I.

The high-flying act has been cleared by the Federal Aviation Administration, which treats such items as carry-on articles that must be safe and stowable, and is sometimes encouraged by the airlines.

As long as your shrimp cocktail is secure for takeoff and you're not overdoing the Limburger cheese, few seem to mind.

"People don't get on board expecting a meal like they used to,"

2 oz. grated Gruyere  
4 oz. Roquefort  
2 oz. Parmesan cheese  
2 tsp. chopped thyme  
2 tsp. salt  
Black pepper to taste  
5 egg whites  
Chopped chives for garnish

Heat butter. Add flour and mix into little balls.

Remove from heat and stir milk gradually.

Add salt and pepper. Return to medium heat until mixture is smooth and pulls away from side of pan.

Put into mixing bowl.

Using a paddle, beat in egg yokes one at a time. Beat well each addition. Add cheeses and thyme. Taste for seasoning. Whip egg whites with 1-tsp. cream of tartar to stiffen peak. Fold into cheese base. Fill dishes that have been buttered and lined with Parmesan. Garnish with chives.

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wraps and seafood pasta, all promoted on the room-service menu. "Guests love it," says John Silvia, the Chicago-based food and beverage director, whose hotel kitchen sells up to two dozen carry-out meals a day.

Passengers who fly with their own comestibles say the practice allows them a measure of control in the uncertain world of missed connections and overbooked cabins. Not only do they recognize and presumably enjoy the food they bring aboard, "you can eat when you want," says David Shaw, media critic for the Los Angeles Times and a jet-setter with a taste for the good life. "I don't have to eat dinner at 4:30 p.m." he adds.

Rudy Maxa, radio's "Savvy Traveler" and a longtime advocate of passengers packing their own meals, calls it "my way to treat myself and pretend I'm in the front of the plane," instead of in coach.

To enhance the in-flight dining experience, Shaw travels with a string bag that contains campers' silverware, a corkscrew, moist towelettes, pieces of aluminum foil and plastic wrap along with what reads like a menu from Dean & DeLuca. "What I take depends on where I'm going and when," says Shaw. Morning flights might take off with Scottish smoked salmon and fresh fruit, while lunch or dinner departures are made smoother with the likes of pate, Italian cold cuts, roast chicken and cheese.

"I'm not much of a cook, but I love to shop for food," Shaw says. Return trips from France and Italy are preceded by hours spent scouring the local markets for sustenance — enough food to cover multiple time zones and meal times for both him and his family. But even on domestic flights from Los Angeles,

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Shaw might dive into a deli here, a bakery there, before heading to the airport. "I make every effort to make it as much fun as possible."

So does Libby Strauss, a Miami Beach retiree whose airplane meals "depend on what we have in the house." An early practitioner of the do-it-yourself-dinner, she has been catering her own meals for 20 years.

Outbound flights have found her snacking on sliced turkey, fish cutlets and roast chicken from her own kitchen; return trips from Manhattan have included noshes picked up from Carnegie Deli and Zabar's. (Sandwiches are easier to eat when they're cut into thirds rather than halves, she advises would-be food packers.) When coming back from

a trip to England, she knows to up a good cheese or two to while crossing the ocean.

Strauss' only rule: "I won't eat odoriferous." She's stopped with garlicky salami, for instance. "It tends to be nerve-racking those who are hungry."

Some travelers schedule to pick up takeout food at favorite eateries that they might not have had occasion to squeeze in during business trips.

"There's another opportunity, which is on the airplane," suggests Charlton Blackburn, a president of marketing and sales for a mail-order pharmacy based in Louisville. "There are certainly that only taste good in those of the avid restaurant-goer."

While traveling from California, he never leaves Los Angeles out a corned-beef sandwich, the legendary Canter's, or California without breakfast from House of Waffles — menu items he admits tend to perfume

Please see REBEL, Page 3

## Paramedic Program To Start April 2000

Northern California Training Institute in conjunction with the Emeryville Fire Department will be offering a paramedic training program starting April 25th through October 2000, Tuesdays and Fridays, at Fire Station 2, 6303 Hollis St., Emeryville. Clinical training will run October and November in Bay Area Hospitals. Field Internships will be scheduled to begin following completion of Clinicals.

NCTI Students have priority in placement with AMR's Field Internship Program. Cost: \$5,500. Entrance Exams/Interviews Feb. 16th & 17th at Emeryville Firestation 2, 6303 Hollis St. Emeryville.

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# Turn leftover bread into pudding base, soup, or salad croutons

By Carolyn Jung  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

**S**tale bread isn't just for the birds. It's also for Italian soups, French toast, bread pudding and savory crusts on racks of lamb.

If the holidays leave you with a lot of leftover bread on your hands, turn to "Yesterday's Bread, 100 Creative Recipes for Not-Quite-Fresh Bread" (HarperPerennial, \$12.95) by Carole Lalli, former editor in chief of Food and Wine Magazine.

## Caper Berry and Rye Bread Salad

Serves 8

4 cups dry rye bread, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
4 tablespoons champagne or white wine vinegar  
1-3 cup olive oil  
Pinch sea salt or coarse salt  
Freshly ground white or black pepper  
4 scallions, trimmed and sliced (white part plus about 1 inch of green tops)  
2 cucumbers  
1 bunch (about 10) red or white radishes, washed, trimmed and thinly sliced  
2-3 cup caper berries or large capers  
1/2 cups Italian parsley leaves

If the rye bread cubes are not completely dry, toast them in a 350-degree oven for about 10 minutes or in a large skillet over medium heat.

Whisk together mustard, vinegar and olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper in a large salad bowl.

Toss bread cubes with dressing, then with the scallions.

Peel cucumbers if they are waxed.

Cut them in half lengthwise and remove seeds using a teaspoon or melon baller.

Cut cucumber halves crosswise into slices about 1/4-inch thick.

Toss cucumbers, radishes, caper berries and parsley with the ingredients in the bowl and serve at once.

## Pappa al Pomodoro

Serves 6-8

1 pound Tuscan-type bread, several days old, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 4 cups)

7 cups homemade or best-quality store-bought chicken or meat broth  
4 cloves garlic, peeled  
10 large fresh sage leaves  
3/4 cup olive oil  
3 cups chopped, seeded very fresh tomatoes or best-quality canned tomatoes  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Extra-virgin olive oil

If bread is not several days old, place on baking sheet and put in preheated 350-degree oven for 10 minutes or so — the bread should be dry, but not toasted.

Pour broth into medium saucepan and bring to a low boil over medium heat.

Finely chop garlic and sage leaves together.

Place oil in a large soup pot over medium heat and add garlic and sage; sauté, stirring, until they are lightly colored, about 5 minutes.

Add tomatoes and stir to incorporate them well for about 2 minutes.

Add the bread and then up to 6 cups of the boiling broth to the mixture — the soup should be very thick.

Season to taste with salt and pepper, bring just to a boil, and set aside for at least 1 hour.

Before serving, stir the soup vigorously to break up any lumps of bread and add small quantities of the remaining broth as necessary, still maintaining a thick consistency.

Serve soup at room temperature, or slightly warmed if you prefer.

Dribble individual portions with virgin olive oil as you serve them or pass the oil around the table.

## Penne With Swiss Chard, Roasted Garlic and Spicy Crumbs

Serves 4-6

1 head garlic  
1/2 cup olive oil  
2-3 bunches red or green Swiss chard  
2-3 thick slices Swiss peasant or similar rustic-style white bread  
Generous pinch crushed hot red pepper flakes (or to taste)  
1/2 teaspoon fresh rosemary or 1/4 teaspoon dried  
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme

1/4 teaspoon dried oregano  
Salt  
1 pound penne or similar short pasta  
1/2 cup chicken or vegetable broth, warmed  
Grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Remove outer, papery skin of the garlic.

Place garlic on a double thickness of heavy-duty aluminum foil, drizzle a bit of the oil over it, and place it on the middle rack of the oven.

Roast garlic until tender when pierced with a cake tester or the tip of a very sharp knife, about 1 hour.

Cut leafy part of Swiss chard away from tough stalks.

Discard stalks and cut leaves into large slices.

Wash chard well in one or two changes of cold water and place in a colander to drain.

By hand, shred bread into large crumbs (about 1/2 inch).

Heat remaining oil in a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat.

Add pepper and herbs to the warm oil and cook them for a few seconds, stirring all the while and taking care not to let them burn.

Add bread and continue to cook and stir until crumbs are nicely golden brown.

Remove crumbs to a plate and sprinkle with salt.

Return pan to heat.

Cook pasta in salted boiling water just under the al dente stage.

Drain.

Place Swiss chard into pan with bread crumbs, cover and steam until wilted, about 5 minutes.

When garlic is cool enough to handle, remove cloves from their skins.

Put garlic in a small bowl, mash it with a fork, and pour in broth; continue to mash until a rough puree is formed.

Turn pasta into the pan with the Swiss chard.

Add garlic mixture and toss over medium heat to combine well and heat through; spoon into a serving dish, top with crumbs, and serve at once.

Pass cheese at the table.

## Asian rice and lentil patties make an easy main dish

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Betty Crocker's Vegetarian Cooking" (Macmillan, \$19.95) describes its contents as "easy meatless main dishes your family will love."

One of the books helpful features takes into account that there may be both vegetarian and nonvegetarian diners at your dinner table. So, quite a lot of these recipes carry a note on how to add poultry or fish to a recipe to adapt it to suit all tastes.

Asian Rice and Lentil Patties would make a nutritious supper dish. The editors point out that the stir-fry sauce the recipe calls for is

available in many flavor variations, from sweet-and-sour to teriyaki. Use your favorite flavor, or if you don't have any in the house try a bottle of sweet-and-sour sauce instead.

### Asian Rice and Lentil Patties

(Preparation time 20 minutes, cooking time 50 minutes)

1/2 cup uncooked brown rice  
1/4 cup dried lentils (2 ounces), sorted and rinsed  
1 1/2 cups water  
1/4 cup finely chopped cashews  
2 tablespoons dry bread crumbs  
2 tablespoons stir-fry sauce  
4 medium green onions, finely chopped (1/2 cup)  
1 egg, beaten

Vegetable Sauce (recipe follows)

Cooking spray

Hot cooked Chinese noodles or rice, if desired

Heat rice, lentils and water to boiling in 2-quart saucepan; reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 30 to 40 minutes, stirring occasionally, until lentils are tender and water is absorbed. Cool slightly.

Mash rice mixture slightly with fork. Stir in remaining ingredients except Vegetable Sauce. Shape mixture into 4 patties, each about 1/2 inch thick. Spray 10-inch skillet with cooking spray. Cook patties in skillet about 10 minutes, turning once, until golden brown. Remove patties from skillet, keep warm.

Prepare Vegetable Sauce in same skillet. Add patties. Cover and cook over medium heat 5 to 8 minutes or until patties are hot. Serve sauce and patties over Chinese noodles or rice.

Makes 4 servings.

### Vegetable Sauce

1 medium stalk celery, sliced  
1 medium carrot, sliced (1/2 cup)  
1/2 cup water

2 tablespoons stir-fry sauce

Heat all ingredients to boiling; reduce heat to medium. Cover and cook about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are crisp-tender.

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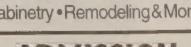
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# Diaphanous dressings for teeny greens

By Elaine Louie  
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — The salad, a mix of baby lettuces like red oak, frisee and lolla rosse, arrives at the table, looking stark naked. Appetizing, yes, but no. Hold a candle under the greens, and there isn't a glint of light.

Enter the stealth salad dressing, invisible to the eye but evident to the tongue. It is the reason that any salads in restaurants these days have a delicious yet elusive quality that may puzzle diners trying to replicate them at home.

Five to 10 ingredients, few of them predictable, go into the subtle and tasty dressings that are created by the chefs at restaurants like Nobu, Palladin and Local.

The inspiration for these new dressings are the baby lettuces and microgreens, like sunflower and buckwheat sprouts, that have come onto the market.

When Jean-Louis Palladin made dressings years ago at his restaurant in Washington, his dressing was only balsamic vinegar and olive oil. But when he served the same dressing with microgreens at his restaurant in midtown Manhattan, the greens wilted.

"They looked like they were wet down with water, because the greens were too heavy," said Tim Dean, the executive chef at Nobu. "The vinegar just killed the greens."

So Palladin and Dean replaced fruity, weighty, often green olive oil with lighter, blander and more transparent grape-seed oil. For flavor, they added a touch of extra virgin olive oil and a lemon-infused olive made from the oil of the lemon oil pressed into the olive oil before bottling. A bit of red wine vinegar adds tartness.

This dressing is starring in one of the most salads in the city, a mix of greens so light a strong wind could scatter them into the tiny sprouts, edible chrysanthemums, curly cress and kale are layered on a pinwheel of asparagus. The greens curl and flutter, unpeeled by their dressing.

Equally light and mysterious is Nobu's dressing for a salad ringed by grilled shiitake mushrooms, served at both Nobu and Nobu Tribeca. There is a hint of citrus, a bite of garlic and an invisible oil that lets the edging, oh so lightly, to the greens. The secret ingredient is, um, the unobtrusive grape-seed oil.

"I wanted the sweetness of the sherry and the honey to bounce off the spiciness of some of the greens," Becker said. The herbs make the dressing sprightly. "I chose the black olives to add a briny note, to bring a nutty element into the salad," he added.

To make sure that the salad is dressed, but not too much, how do the chefs toss their salads? With their very clean hands.

"The grape-seed oil has hardly any flavor," said Ricky Estrellada, head chef at Nobu. It works as a medium, through which lemon juice, soy sauce, garlic puree, lime, salt and pepper can blend. It is neutral, so the flavor of the

lemon will come out, and it is just to emulsify the dressing," Estrellada added. Grape-seed oil is also low in saturated fat and high in vitamin E.

Nobu's salad dressings have always been light, Estrellada said, "to let the flavors of the greens come through, and because it's the beginning of the meal."

He explained, "The lightness is for customers, so they do not get full right away."

At Tabla, the house salad is presented as a jewel, not as a mere appetizer. A translucent, paper-thin ring of cucumber surrounds mesclun, topped with golden crisps of flaked rice or by glistening ruby pomegranate seeds. The dressing, however, is always unseen, slightly hot and tangy. The pivotal ingredients are lighter versions of two thick and weighty Indian condiments: Patak's Mild Lime Relish, intense and bitter, and mango chutney, sweet and soothing.

"I like to take strong flavors, and my food to have layers of flavor," said Tabla executive chef Floyd Cardoz, who was born in Goa, India. "The reason I use lime pickle is because I love it, although in India, this is one of the least popular flavors because of the bitterness. But if you balance it out and cut it with sherry and the mango chutney, you get a little sweetness, a little acidity."

He makes the chutney and lime pickle lighter by blending them with canola oil, red wine vinegar and a sherry cooked down to concentrate the flavor. The dressing itself is matte orange, but on the greens it is transparent. The flavor is piquant.

Sherry and canola oil are the elusive elements in a fresh, herbal vinaigrette at Local in Times Square. Executive chef Franklin Becker cooks shallots in sherry and adds mustard, honey and sherry vinegar. He drizzles two oils into the mixture, canola for lightness and olive oil for fruitiness. At the very end, he tosses in chopped fresh chervil, parsley, tarragon and optional minced Nicoise olives.

"I wanted the sweetness of the sherry and the honey to bounce off the spiciness of some of the greens," Becker said. The herbs make the dressing sprightly. "I chose the black olives to add a briny note, to bring a nutty element into the salad," he added.

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4 tablespoons lemon-flavored olive oil, like O oil, flavored with Meyer lemons (see note). Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil.

1. In a blender, combine red wine vinegar and balsamic vinegar. Blend at high speed for 3 seconds.

2. Add grape-seed oil, and pulse on low speed for 2 to 3 seconds. Add lemon-flavored oil, and pulse on low speed for 3 seconds.

3. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

With blender on low speed, slowly add olive oil until emulsified. Vinaigrette can be refrigerated for as long as five days.

If it separates, add about 1/2 teaspoon lemon or lime juice, and blend on low speed for 2 seconds. Yield: 2 1/2 cups.

Note: Lemon-flavored olive oils are available at Dean & DeLuca.

Yield: 1 1/4 cups.

### Lime chutney sherry dressing

Adapted from Tabla

Time: 15 minutes

1 cup sweet sherry

4 tablespoons Patak's Mild Lime Relish or other lime pickle (available at Asian markets and specialty food stores)

4 tablespoons mango chutney

1 cup red wine vinegar

1 cup extra virgin olive oil or canola oil

1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring sherry to a boil, and reduce to two-thirds of its original volume. Set aside.

2. In a blender, combine lime pickle, chutney and vinegar. Blend until smooth.

While the machine is running, slowly add oil until emulsified.

3. Transfer dressing to a storage container.

Add tarragon and salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.

Store covered and refrigerated for as long as three months.

Yield: 3 cups.

### Nobu salad dressing

Adapted from Matsuhisa Nobu

Time: 5 minutes

1 shallot, diced

1/4 cup fino sherry

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon honey

1/4 cup sherry vinegar

1/2 cup canola oil

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

1 teaspoon chopped chervil

1 teaspoon chopped parsley

1 teaspoon chopped tarragon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

2 teaspoons cayenne pepper

1/4 cup grape-seed oil.

1. In a small saucepan combine diced shallot and sherry.

Bring them to a boil over medium heat, and reduce the mixture until almost dry.

Set aside.

2. In a small bowl, combine mustard, honey and vinegar.

Whisk until well blended.

Add shallot-sherry reduction.

While whisking steadily, slowly add canola oil and olive oil until emulsified.

3. Add chervil, parsley and tarragon, and stir well to blend.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Yield: 3 cups.

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## Almonds add flavorful crunch to almost any entree

By Carol J.G. Ward  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

The 1999 almond harvest is the largest crop in history, according to the Almond Board. The projection is 830 million pounds of almonds, 60 percent more than the 1998 harvest.

With the bounty of almonds, this holiday season is the perfect time to experiment with them in all sorts of dishes.

The earliest varieties of almonds were found in China and carried by traders down the legendary Silk Road to Greece, Turkey and the Middle East.

The Book of Numbers in the Bible tells the story of Aaron's rod that blossomed and bore almonds.

Almonds also were a prized ingredient in breads served to Egypt's pharaohs, and Romans showered newlyweds with almonds as a fertility charm.

In Sweden, cinnamon-flavored porridge with an almond hidden inside is a Christmas custom.

Find the almond, and you'll have good fortune for a year.

■ Availability: Almonds are available year-round with a peak in mid to late fall.

■ Selection and storage: When buying unshelled nuts, choose those that are heavy for their size with solid shells without cracks or holes.

Shelled nuts should be plump.

To test for freshness, snap a couple.

If they bend, rather than break crisply, they are past their prime.

Avoid almonds that are shriveled or discolored.

The high fat content in nuts makes them susceptible to rancidity.

To preserve freshness, store them in an airtight container in a cool place.

Shelled nuts can be refrigerated for up to four months or frozen up to eight months.

As a general rule, unshelled nuts keep twice as long as shelled.

■ Preparation: Almonds can add flavor and crunch to practically any dish on the menu.

Make "nut crumbs" by adding whole toasted almonds to the bowl of a food processor and pulsing on and off until the almonds are coarsely ground.

Use them as a gratin topping for casseroles, or sprinkle on pasta and grain dishes.

Roll goat cheese in a mixture of sliced almonds and bread crumbs for an appetizer.

Spice almonds with ginger and cayenne pepper and sprinkle on salads.

Encrust veal or pork with a mixture of mustard and almonds, or use them in a streusel topping for fruit desserts.

Seasoned almonds make a savory topping for your favorite side or main dish.

In a nonstick skillet over medium-low heat, toss whole or slivered almonds in a small amount of vegetable oil until golden.

Add your choice of dried herbs, then sprinkle over salads, vegetables and pasta.

Mix toasted slivered or sliced almonds into grain-based dishes, such as Middle Eastern classic tabbouleh or other bulgur wheat salads to add flavor and crunch.

The mild flavor of almonds is the perfect complement to vibrant Asian flavors.

Try tossing finely diced toasted almonds into a ginger-shrimp saute or adding toasted whole almonds to Chinese vegetable stir-fry dishes.

■ Nutritional highlights: Nuts are cholesterol free and low in saturated fat; studies show that adding them to your diet can help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Even though nuts mainly contain a healthy form of fat, it's important not to eat too many of them.

Or if you do overindulge, be sure to get less of other, less healthy fats.

Almonds are an excellent source of vitamin E and provide other nutrients such as fiber, calcium and protein.

Twenty to 25 almonds contain 35 percent of the recommended daily value of vitamin E, about the same amount of dietary fiber as an orange or an apple and as much calcium as 1/4 cup milk.

### Fiesta Rice and Beans With Almonds

4 servings  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
2/3 cup whole natural almonds  
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes  
1 cup instant rice  
1 cup water  
1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained  
1 can (4 ounces) diced green chilis  
3 tablespoons chopped cilantro  
Hot pepper sauce and salt, to taste

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat.

Add almonds.

Cook and toss about 5 minutes until lightly browned.

Remove almonds with slotted spoon; set aside.

Add tomatoes, rice and water to skillet.

Cook about 5 minutes until most of liquid is absorbed.

Mix in beans and chilis.

Continue to cook until most of liquid is absorbed but mixture is not dry.

Mix in almonds and cilantro.

Season with pepper sauce and salt.

—From the California Almond Board

### Nutritional information per serving:

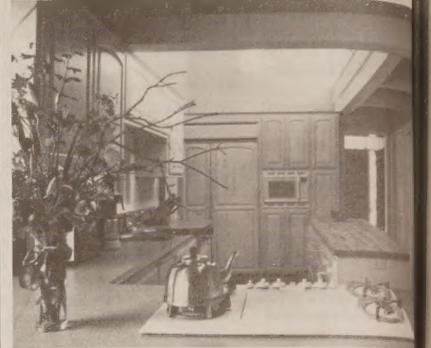
Calories, 424.7; protein, 15.88 grams; carbohydrates, 50.75 grams; total fat, 19.25 grams; cholesterol, 0.0 milligrams; saturated fat, 2.113 grams; dietary fiber, 13.20 grams; sodium, 316.9 milligrams; sugar, 8.517 grams; vitamin A, 107.7 retinol equivalents; vitamin C, 18.11 milligrams; calcium, 187.6 milligrams; iron, 5.525 milligrams; alcohol, 0.0 grams.

NOTE: Information is meant only as a guide; the ESHA Research program does not compensate for crop-growing conditions, and some methods of cooking affect nutrient content.

(Carol J.G. Ward covers food and nutrition for The State (Columbia, S.C.).

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